

Bentains want body in drum exhumed

STORY
ON PAGE A2



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Racist message written in blood

Australian police refuse to reveal wording of message

A RACIST hate message scrawled in the victims' blood was left behind in the house of a Filipino family murdered inside their home in Sydney, Australian media reported yesterday.

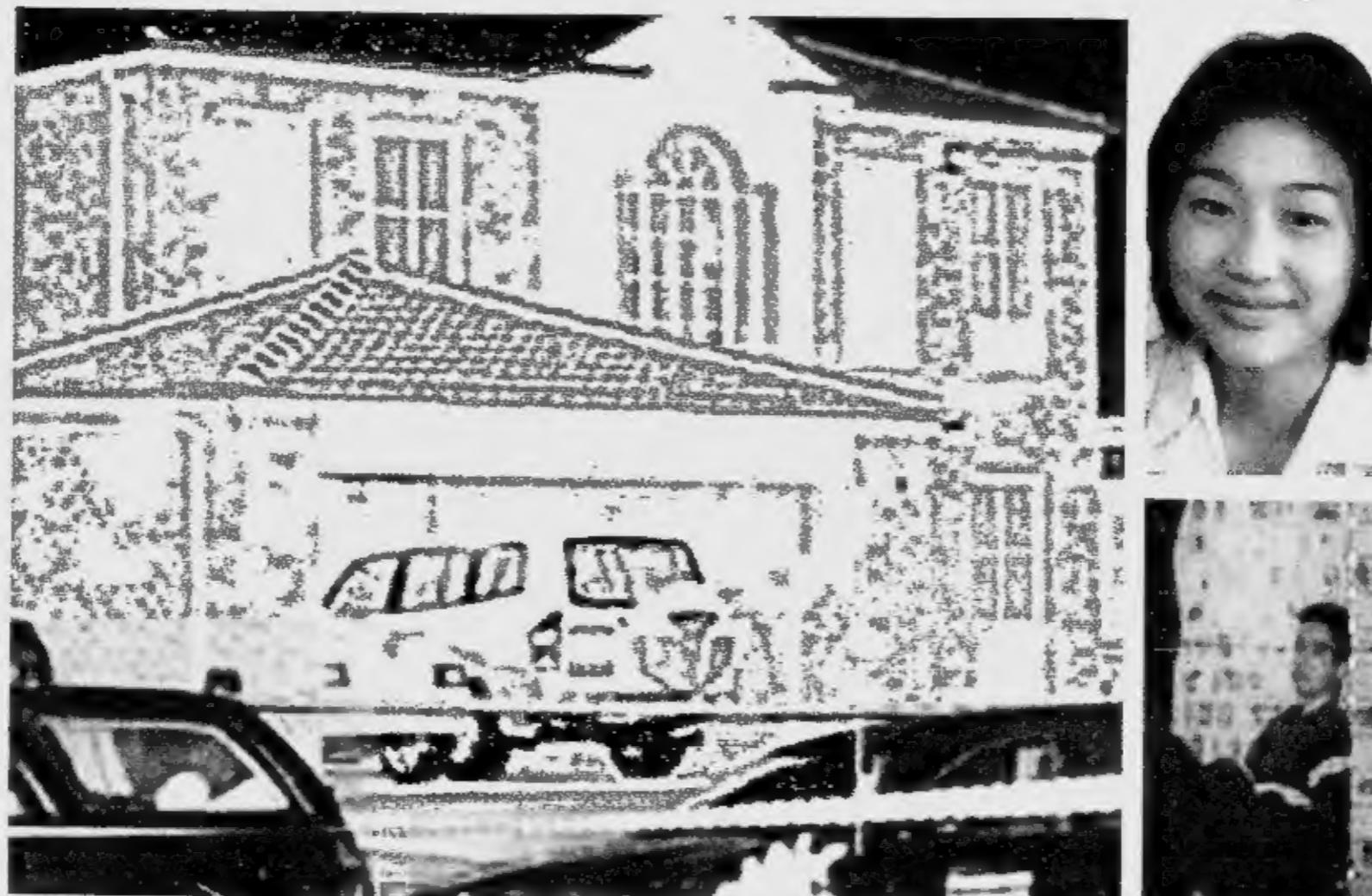
Citing police sources, Australian newspapers said the undisclosed message had been written with the blood of immigration lawyer Teddy Gonzales, 46; his wife Lowiva Claridades, 43; and their 18-year-old daughter, Clodine.

Homicide detectives, who formed Strike Force Tawas to track down the killers, yesterday remained tight-lipped about a possible motive and declined to reveal the wording of the message reportedly left on a wall close to Mrs. Gonzales' body in the living room.

The Philippine consul general in Sydney yesterday confirmed that police had found the hate scrawl but added that detectives believed that "maybe this was just (left behind) to mislead the authorities" away from the real motive for the murders.

Australian papers also reported that the detectives felt the message might have been intended to throw them off the trail and that they were more interested in finding any fingerprints or DNA material.

RACIST / A21



GONZALES home (above) is in a tree-lined middle-class suburb of North Ryde in Sydney, Australia, where the family moved last December, and neighbors described the couple as "being so much in love, it was incredible to see." Too shocked (at right) to be of any help to police investigators, surviving Gonzales' son, Sofi, is being counseled by a local church. Clodine, 18, (top, right), the Gonzales daughter who was found with her throat slashed.

Palace still bullish despite weakening peso

MALACAÑANG yesterday reaffirmed its bullish economic growth forecast despite a weakening peso that slid to a five-and-a-half month low of P53.40 against the dollar before closing at P53.08.

(The INQUIRER erroneously reported on Page 1 that the peso closed at P53.65 to \$1 on Wednesday. It actually closed at P53.065.)

The Palace is apparently putting on a brave front after Singapore an-

nounced on Wednesday that its economy had shrunk for the second straight quarter, meeting the widely accepted definition of recession.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the government was sticking to its gross domestic product growth target of 3.3 percent to 3.8 percent this year because the economy still had momentum.

"Unless there is a major crash in

the United States or Japan we think we will still hit the 3.3 (to 3.8 percent) target," Tiglao told reporters.

Tiglao was speaking on the eve of a planned announcement by President Macapagal-Arroyo of bold initiatives to lift the economy, which is reeling from the slide in exports and a host of homegrown problems.

The spokesperson was coy on Arroyo's plans but promised a "major announcement" of both eco-

nomic and political measures.

The government lowered its growth target in June by half a percentage point, but the International Monetary Fund and a number of leading investment banks believe the government is still being too optimistic.

Global demand for the country's main export, electronics, has slumped. The weak demand for electronics has pushed Singapore, a major electron-

ics producer, into recession.

Though confident that the Philippines would escape recession, Tiglao conceded that the government's room for maneuver was limited by global and regional pressures.

Declining exports is putting pressure on the peso, boosting inflation and reducing the scope for lower interest rates, while investment is anemic because of worries over law and order.

PALACE / A20

Military questions MNLF: Whose side are you on?

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Four members of the Moro National Liberation Front were wounded in six-hour clash with government troops in Lantawan town Wednesday, prompting a military official to wonder where the MNLF's loyalty lies. Maj. Alberto Gepilano,

civil-military operations officer of Joint Task Force Comet, said soldiers belonging to the 10th Infantry Brigade clashed with Abu Sayyaf bandits under Commander Isnilon Hapilon, but that when the troops reached Barangay Matikang, they encountered an MNLF group under Commander Boy Colot.

Gepilano said an investigation should be conducted to clarify

which side the MNLF was on. The group signed a peace accord with the government in 1996.

"Every time there's an engagement with the extremists, (the MNLF comes into) the picture," he said.

Gepilano denied that the clash was a "misencounter."

"Our troops were pursuing the Abu Sayyaf," he said. "When they reached MNLF Camp Mardika,

they thought they were going to get support considering that (MNLF members) are allied forces. But to their surprise, they were also fired upon. So our troops were forced to retaliate."

Gepilano identified the wounded MNLF members as Ibo Maamo, Sawi Tapsi, Indam Liwana and a certain Mautul.

But Bashir Jailani, MNLF na-

tional security command chief, said the attack on the camp also killed two MNLF farmers and displaced hundreds of villagers.

In Manila, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said that apart from the clash in Matikang, three other armed encounters occurred in the town of Lamitan on Wednesday.

MILITARY / A20

Estradas may lose Cuevas as lawyer

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN,
ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND DONNA S. CUETO

CRIMINAL defendants Joseph and Jinggoy Estrada may soon lose one heck of a top-notch lawyer.

Government prosecutors plan to question former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas' appearance as defense counsel of the former President and his son in their plunder case before the Sandiganbayan.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said the law bars retired judicial officers who are receiving state pensions from serving as counsel to parties in court cases where the government is the plaintiff or defendant.

This prohibition covers former justices of both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, Perez said, noting that Cuevas has served in both tribunals.

After Estrada's plunder arraignment on Tuesday, according to Perez, the justice secretary was approached by a former Supreme Court justice who pointed out that the prohibition is spelled out in Republic Act 910.

ESTRADAS / A18

PPC solons on brink of breakup

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO,
ARMAND NOCUM
AND GERALD G. LACARTA

BOTH HOUSES of Congress now stand divided.

In the Senate, the already fragmented People Power Coalition (PPC) could be on the verge of a breakup after Sen. Franklin Drilon shot down yesterday a power-sharing scheme to resolve the issue of the Senate presidency.

Ironically, the scheme proposed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona was aimed to prevent the disintegration of the PPC, which has a majority in the Senate.

In the Lower House, the speakership is no longer in the bag for Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia. Sixty congressmen have crossed party lines to form an alliance to work for the election of Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad and upset De Venecia's comeback.

But of the two Houses, the Senate is the more chaotic. Two other blocs have emerged within the PPC led by Drilon's rivals, Sen. Rene Cayetano and Sen. Joker Arroyo. The Senate leadership is really a toss-up between Cayetano and Arroyo, according to an insider of one of the blocs.

PPC / A20

US Pacific Fleet commander in Manila; Basilan on agenda

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE COMMANDER in Chief of the US Pacific Fleet is in town for the regular meeting of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board scheduled today, as well as discussions on the two countries' sharing of intelligence information in connection with the hostage crisis in Basilan.

Adm. Dennis Blair, whose com-

mand covers almost half of the world, arrived on an official three-day visit on Wednesday. On that day, a series of gun battles flared up in Basilan between government forces and the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding at least 21 hostages including American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Blair is scheduled to call on President Macapagal-Arroyo after the MDB meeting in Camp Aguinaldo.

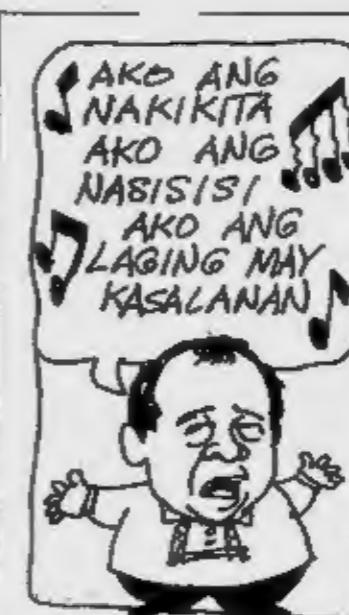
"There will be discussions on areas where, in terms of sharing intelligence information, the Ameri-

cans can assist in resolving this hostage situation," Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

"I'm sure that at the operational level, the concern of the United States over the safety of the hostages is understandable," he said.

Reyes and Blair met yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo where, the Philippine defense chief said, they "discussed areas that could be explored for the advancement of the mutual interest of both parties and both armed forces."

US / A18



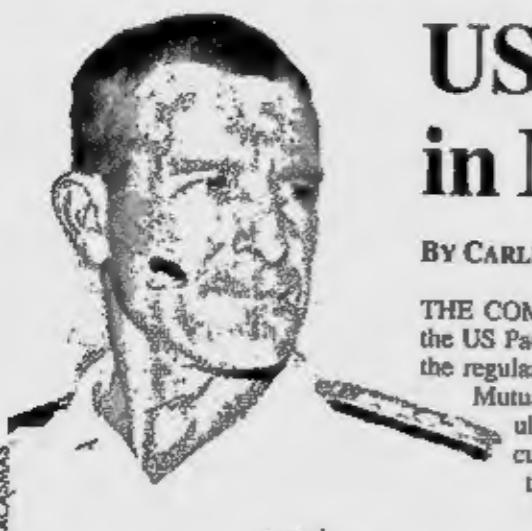
Jimenez wails: Why me?

BY CATHY YAMSUAN
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

MARK JIMENEZ is wondering why the government pays so much attention to his extradition case when it should mind serious matters like economic and law and order problems.

"You do not need to be a

JIMENEZ / A18



US NAVY Adm. Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet: sharing intelligence on Abu crisis.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Second FRONT PAGE



Bentains want body in drum exhumed

BY CHRISTIAN V.
ESGUERRA AND
ALCUIN PAPA

THE FAMILY of missing casino employee Edgar Bentain wants to exhume a body in a steel drum that was found in Lubao, Pampanga, in 1997 and reburied when no one came to claim it.

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Lubao, Pampanga, in 1997 and reburied when no one came to claim it.

Bentain's brother, Edcel, said yesterday National Bureau of Investigation agents will accompany Dante Jimenez of the Volun-

teers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) and himself to Lubao this week to dig up the drum.

The drum was reportedly found by the town's residents in 1997. Its discovery was reported to the police who recorded the incident.

Later, when no one came forward to claim the body, it was reportedly reburied in the drum by a funeral homes worker named Patrick whose whereabouts are now unknown. The NBI is reportedly looking for Patrick to shed some light in the case.

Edcel said he and his family are convinced the remains in the drum are those of his brother, based on recent revelations made by Angelo

Mawanay, a.k.a. Ador, who claimed to have taken part in Bentain's abduction and murder.

Mawanay said Bentain was killed because he released a videotape showing then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada playing baccarat at a hotel casino.

He named their national police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson as the man who gave the order to abduct and kill Bentain. He said Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and Senior Supt. Cesar Mancio, Lacson's trusted subordinates, oversaw the operation.

Mawanay claimed Bentain was forced into a steel drum and buried alive near a bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga after he was abducted from the Grand Boulevard Hotel casino where he worked on Jan. 16, 1999.

"We are convinced Edgar is the man buried in the drum," Edcel told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Orlando Dizon, NBI director for Central Luzon, had said the drum could not have contained Bentain's remains since it was dug up in 1997, or two years before Bentain went missing.

But the Bentains and Jimenez believe the date of recovery might have been tampered with in the records of the Lubao police.

"It's highly possible those behind Edgar's murder connived with or threatened some people in Lubao to change the entry to mislead the investigation," Jimenez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Edcel said a description of the man in the drum as told to him by NBI agents "matched" his brother.

"Once we have ascertained the body is Edgar's, we will file charges against those behind his kidnapping and murder," Edcel said.

Wednesday, the "Justice for Bentain Move-

ment" was launched with civil society groups forming a seven-man legal team to prosecute Bentain's killers.

The team is led by Leonardo de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement and includes Jose Grapilon, former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines; Atanios Bacale, also of the IBP; Dennis Funa and Nic Conti of the Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership, JV Bautista of Sanlakas and Argos, Guevara of ARM-Lawyers. The team also represents Mawanay.

De Vera said they would ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to seek the help of countries with modern equipment in the search for Bentain's body.

De Vera said the assistance from countries like Japan, South Korea and the United States could come in the form of metal detectors and satellite imaging that could find a body in a drum buried in lahar.

"We might need to use metal detectors or satellite imaging to find that drum and these countries have the capability for that," De Vera said.

He said if the drum was not found, the first-hand testimony of Mawanay might suffice to convict the accused as long as his credibility as a witness is established.

"We need to find corroborative evidence to establish his (Mawanay's) presence at the scene of the crime," De Vera said.

De Vera said he and the other lawyers, who grilled Mawanay over last weekend, said they will stand by the former agent for as long as he is telling the truth.

"As long as he has not shown he is telling a lie, we will stand by him. If we find that he is lying, we ourselves will tell the public," he said.

GMA lauds new P16B cigarette plant, while health chief snubs rites

BY J. JAVELLANA

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—Even though her health secretary skipped the groundbreaking rites for its state-of-the-art P16-billion cigarette manufacturing facility here, President Macapagal-Arroyo hailed Philip Morris as a "socially conscious" cigarette manufacturer and welcomed its investment in the country.

Ms. Macapagal was all praises for the decision of Philip Morris, the world's biggest cigarette company, to locate its "Asian jewel" in the country despite the recent negative publicity the Philippines has been generating.

The \$300-million facility, to be set up on a 25-hectare lot at the First Philippine Industrial Park, will be fully operational by 2003 and will become Philip Morris' regional hub. It will manufacture Marlboro and Philip Morris cigarettes to be sold around Asia.

"As a responsible corporate citizen, we are firmly committed to respond to society's concerns both in the Philippines and worldwide regarding smoking," he added.

Philip Morris is one of the companies ordered to pay an unprecedented \$3 billion in punitive damages to cancer-stricken Richard Boen in the U.S.

In November 1998, 46 U.S. states endorsed a \$206-billion settlement for cigarette smokers who contracted lung cancer and other smoking-related ailments.

In her speech, the President revealed how Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit intentionally avoided joining her at the groundbreaking rites.

She said Dayrit was with her in Albay, along with Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, but somehow was unable to find his way to the Philip Morris event.

Former President Fidel Ramos and local officials of Batangas were present at the 1:15 p.m. rites.

"But after we heard from you today, I think the government can express its support and endorsement of Philip Morris' program to prevent smoking by the youth and I urge Philip Morris to coordinate closely with (Dayrit) to find ways of expanding the scope of the Youth Smoking-Prevention Program (YSPP) so that next time he'll mind coming here to see the jobs that you are creating," Ms. Macapagal said.

Farrah explained that Philip Morris has implemented the YSPP to keep cigarettes away from children.

In the Philippines, he said Philip Morris is working with various institutions, including educators, retailers and the cigarette industry to promote programs that will discourage the young from smoking.

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Comelec rushes to beat proclamation deadline

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

BICKERING officials of the Commission on Elections have decided to set aside their differences in order to beat a self-imposed deadline "before July 23" when they would proclaim all the winning party-list representatives and settle who between Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Sen. Rudolph Recto should get the longer term.

Chairman Alfredo Benipayo said the Comelec en banc has agreed to reconvene the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) next week to finalize the party-list canvass and the senatorial tally, both of which have dragged on for nearly two months now.

Benipayo said the NBC would first have to settle the question of which among the winning party-list groups are qualified to sit in the House of Representatives based on the eight guidelines set by the Supreme Court.

The SC gave the Comelec only until July 29 to wrap up hearings but Benipayo said the poll body was rushing to have the winners proclaimed before the opening of the 12th Congress on July 23.

"I think the idea is to be able to submit a report before the 23rd because of the opening of the session," Benipayo said.

As for the Senate tally, Benipayo said that while all 13 winning senators have been proclaimed, the NBC still has to determine who were the 12th and 13th placers, based on the final canvass.

As of the latest count on June 4, Recto had 10,387,108 votes while Honasan had 10,364,272, but these did not include the votes from Lanao del Sur which had been questioned by the Puwers ng Massa.

Benipayo said the NBC will have to resolve four petitions filed by PnM lawyer Rufus Rodriguez contesting a total of 180,000 votes for Recto, including 30,000 padded votes in Zamboanga del Norte which

were not deducted from his tally despite an NBC order. "We have completed the canvass up to Lanao del Sur and our people are now preparing the audited report," Benipayo said.

Rodriguez, who had urged the NBC to resolve the petitions before the start of the senators' terms on June 30, lauded the Comelec's decision to finally reconvene the NBC after much delay.

"This means the Comelec hasn't totally gone to the dogs yet," Rodriguez said. "But it should be consistent in its actions by reopening the certificates of canvass in the areas under question as it had earlier done in four provinces."

For not using up loans, DECS nearly loses ₱12B

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE DEPARTMENT of Education, Culture and Sports nearly lost a ₱12-billion school building loan fund from the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation after the two agencies found out that past DECS administrations had hardly used the loans available to them.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said the DECS had to "renegotiate" with the World Bank and the JBIC for the foreign donors to continue funding the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP).

Roco said the two agencies were "shocked" by a report that the DECS had not used the ₱2 billion allotted every year for the construction of classrooms.

He said the loans had in effect been "wasted" by past DECS administrations because they were not maximized despite the pressing need for more schools in the country.

"The money is intact, there's no problem with that," Roco said in a phone interview. "What is shocking is it was

hardly used, so the (school building) project was not really implemented."

He said the commitment fee paid by the government was bigger than the actual portions of the loans that were used by the DECS to build and repair classrooms for public high schools.

The commitment fee is the fine paid by the government for the loan fund made available by the bank but which the borrower, in this case the DECS, is not utilizing.

The TEEP is a project for public high schools spread over seven years and funded by a ₱12-billion soft loan from the World Bank and the JBIC. It would cover the years 1997-2004.

A recent report showed the DECS under former secretaries Ricardo Gloria and Bro. Andrew Gonzalez used only ₱318,908 in loans over three years, while the government had to pay around ₱70 million in commitment fees alone.

The school building program under the TEEP had been allocated ₱38.4 mil-

lion to be used for repairs and construction of classrooms.

"They wanted to withdraw their funding because their money was not earning interest, so we had to renegotiate," Roco said.

The DECS chief met with representatives of the World Bank and JBIC two months ago for a thorough discussion of the status of the TEEP.

The DECS on Tuesday relaunched the TEEP, targeting the construction of 1,617 classrooms and the repair of 3,150 to benefit around 240,000 students.

"We're now involving the principals. We've given them manuals so they would know how the work is progressing," Roco said, adding the construction timetable has been reduced to 90 days compared to at least 300 days in the previous years.

Only two classrooms were built in 1999 while 272 were built and 427 repaired last year, compared to an initial target of 1,190 constructed and 2,252 repaired.

Probe of House OT pay ordered

THE TOP administrative official of the House of Representatives has ordered a "full-dress investigation" into alleged overtime pay irregularities at the chamber's media affairs office.

House secretary general Roberto Nazareno said he will create an investigating team composed of officials from the administrative and personnel divisions to probe the granting of allegedly excessive overtime pay to at least seven employees of the Media Affairs and Public Information Service (Mapis).

"We will look into these alleged irregularities, especially now that the government is undertaking austerity measures to cope with its money problems," Nazareno said.

Mapis director Celine Marie Buencamino

also took exception to reports that Miguel Genovea, earlier reported to be Mapis head, was connected with the department.

In a letter faxed to the INQUIRER, Buencamino said "Mr. Genovea was a consultant in the Office of the Speaker and the employees alluded to in the article, although categorized as Mapis staff, have not been reporting to this office."

"We hope we can put a stop to this practice of unauthorized overtime pay by certain quarters—a practice not condoned by this office or this institution, particularly at a time of national austerity," she said.

A Mapis statement said the erring employees "have not been reporting to Mapis and are currently under investiga-

tion for insubordination and other possible violations of civil service rules and regulations."

"The attention of (these) employees had, in fact, been called even prior to the publication of any report on this matter," said the statement.

Genovea had explained that the huge overtime pay collected by Mapis personnel was justified because they had been assigned to monitor radio, TV and print coverage of Congress during the term of Speaker Manuel Villar.

It was noted, however, that the overtime pay, ranging from ₱20,000 to ₱20,000, were all drawn in the month of May when Congress was closed.

Rocky Nazareno

Day in court looms for Imelda Marcos

BY DONNA S. CUETO

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos may soon have to testify in court, or at least submit her explanation, in the civil suit filed by the government in 1989 to recover the alleged Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

In a four-page resolution, the Sandiganbayan's fourth division denied Ms Marcos' motion for reconsideration, saying it was based on "erroneous assumptions." The court said it's earlier subpoena for her to testify still stood.

The court cited her own admission that her husband, the late President Ferdinand Marcos, had indeed acquired the subject properties in the complaint, particularly the ₱12.374-million worth of shares in the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. and stock in Prime Holdings Inc.

The complaint also mentioned bank deposits here and abroad, real properties in Leyte and the US, investments in mining and other corporations, crates and suitcases of jewelry and US currency, and evening gowns and other vanity items.

Ms Marcos claimed that she did not give any self-incriminating evidence when she made these admissions, arguing that she did not say that the properties were ill-gotten.

The court said that by her own admission contained in her answer to the court about the properties, she had "expressly waived" her right against self-incrimination.

Ms Marcos said that since her cross-claim to the PLDT shares had been rejected by the court, she could not be required to "testify on her (earlier) claim."

Saudia executive beats deportation

IMMIGRATION authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport had sought the deportation of an executive of Saudia Airlines who tried to intercede in behalf of seven Arab nationals who were barred from entering the country.

But Abdullah Alazhari, station manager of Saudi-Airlines at the Naia, was able to show that his working papers were in order, thus stopping immigration agents in their tracks.

BI agents had alleged Alazhari did not have a working or employment visa, a clear violation of the country's immigration laws.

They said Alazhari, 35, had been authorized to stay in the country only 21 days, thus they arrested him and took him to the Bureau of Immigration office for further investigation.

Crescencio Abilan, intelligence chief of the BI at Naia, had asked Commissioner Andrea Domingo to issue a warrant for the deportation of Alazhari, citing his failure to secure a working visa.

Alazhari, however, was able to show that his request for a working permit was pending at the BI main office.

Investigation showed that on July 6, Alazhari, showed up at the immigration office and questioned the banning of the seven Arab nationals from the country.

Increased by his interference, the immigration officers ignored him and booked the seven on a return flight to Riyadh.

Leonardo Cabanting, deputy immigration supervisor at Naia, ordered the exclusion of the Arabs after they could not justify their visit to Mindanao, the base of operations of Muslim extremist groups.

S. Tagalog mass transit link mulled

TO DECONGEST Metro Manila, the Macapagal administration will build a mass transport system that would link the Southern Tagalog provinces to the metropolis.

President Macapagal-Arroyo gave this "preview" yesterday of some of the proposals contained in the State of the Nation Address she would deliver during the joint opening of Congress on July 23.

"There are so many urban poor people in Metro Manila, so we would have to decongest it by bringing a portion of the metro population to the Calabarzon area," the President said in her speech during groundbreaking rites for the P16-billion Philip Morris cigarette factory at the First Philippine Industrial Park in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, yesterday.

Ms Macapagal said the relocation of the poor would not be mandatory. *Juliet L. Jayallana*

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To the urban poor who consume 10 cubic meters or less per month, and pay about ₱40 monthly, the tariff increase will add only ₱20 to the water bill. This is equal to the cost of one pack of cigarettes, or a hamburger sandwich.

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First Gent gets lesson on bad urban planning

BAGUIO CITY First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo got his first hard look at bad urban planning Thursday, courtesy of the more dramatic disaster sites in Baguio which were triggered by last week's killer-typhoon "Feria."

Arroyo visited a Kennon Road neighborhood, site of a mudslide that spilled from an abandoned subdivision development project and killed several families.

He also visited the City Camp Lagoon, a decades-old, flood-prone area that was again buried in 15 feet of floodwater last week.

Arroyo ended his tour at the Pinsao community of Josephine Albon, a barangay leader who lost her life in a July 4 rescue mission.

These areas had been devastated by calamities, which the city had already foreseen due to their geological characteristics as well as their potentials as public hazards, the Office of Civil Defense said.

Abra hardest hit

The city's death toll has reached 35, according to the OCD.

Among the Cordillera provinces, Abra was the hardest hit, it said. Access to Abra was cut when the Quirino Bridge leading to towns in Northern Luzon was swept away by flood.

Feria's rains spawned floods that killed 17 people in Abra and displaced 36,638 families. Sixteen others were still missing.

The typhoon submerged two barangays, damaged 5,578 houses and destroyed crops worth P106.58 million, the OCD noted in a report submitted to Arroyo.

Arroyo is expected to collate these one-site assessments for President Macapagal-Arroyo, his spokespersons said.

Arroyo also checked up on his residence on Pacdal Road here before reviewing the damages that Feria wrought on the Mansion, the presidential official summer residence.

"The windows were shattered by the wind, and many of our trees fell. The typhoon was very furious," said Anne Bistuyong, the Mansion's overseer.

Refugee

The Arroyo residence survived with barely a smudge, prompting the First Gentleman to offer it as a temporary refuge to typhoon victims here.

Arroyo, wearing a bright red and collared T-shirt, a pair of slacks and leather shoes, struggled through soft mud and climbed an alley leading to the home of Fernando Rojo.

Rojo lost a wife to a slide. His neighbors fared no better. Cris Uyao and his family were buried neck deep in mud. His wife was immediately swallowed by mud, although his two children managed to escape.

Cris himself had to be dug out by neighbors. But his neighbors lamented that Cris died in the hospital upon learning of his wife's fate.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio-Domogan briefed Arroyo about the area's geology. They were also joined by Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda.

Arroyo's attention was always riveted at the head of a mountain where the abandoned Taipan subdivision area remains untouched. Thatches of loose vegetation clung to loose earth, where the subdivision developer had bulldozed its waste materials.

Subdivision project

Leonor Alfonso, a resident, said the community had complained about the subdivision because of the dangers it posed, but the government failed to act on them.

The National Housing Authority shut down the subdivision due to technical violations 10 years ago, but the government failed to reinforce the site, Alfonso said.

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ARROYO commiserates with Emiliana Collano, 43, who lost her home when typhoon Feria devastated Baguio City.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Victor Tomazar, OCD director for the Cordillera, said the Kennon Road tragedy displayed the city's inability to deal with its geological and engineering vulnerabilities.

Tomazar acknowledged a geological evaluation that traced most landslides and abnormal flooding in the city to natural drainage systems, which were obstructed by squatter colonies and unregulated urban development projects.

Several of these concerns were detailed in reports to City Hall

by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, but these were ignored.

"These are scenarios that cannot be excused by citing Feria as an abnormal typhoon. We have had the same problems before, and we could have responded to them already. Drains, whether they are government regulated or not, are really small details which can mean big things for a community. This should not have been ignored," Tomazar said in Filipino.

The geological evaluation was made last week by Neoman dela Cruz, MGB regional director.

Slum colonies

Feria had broken records for generating the most rainfall, according to Joseph Rios, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration office here.

An OCD official also noted that most of the subdivisions and squatter colonies, sprouted in the city following the July 16, 1990 earthquake.

"I don't know what this detail means, but you can check from all housing records. Subdivisions began to grow after the quake. The squatters were allowed to grow after the quake. But no one had stepped in to mitigate their growth with clear drainage and sewer systems, or even to eject houses lying

on hazardous areas. The city has this authority, you know," the official said.

Tomazar said he has scheduled a dialogue on

Saturday, July 14, with engineers in the city to help map out a solution to Baguio's landslides. **Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

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TAIWAN Economic Minister Lin Hsin-yi visits a Taiwanese trade fair in Makati City.

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China asks RP to keep visit of Taiwan minister unofficial

CHINA yesterday asked the Philippine government to keep a visit of a Taiwanese minister at a "non-political and unofficial level," reminding Manila to adhere to its one-China policy.

Taiwanese Economic Minister Lin Hsin-yi arrived in Manila on Wednesday for a conference with Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II on ways to expand trade between the two Asian countries.

"The Chinese side believes the Philippine side will keep its commitment and will handle the relative question properly and restrict the Philippine-Taiwan contact to the non-political and unofficial level," said Wang Luo, a spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy.

"We hope and believe that the Philippine government will honor its commitment on its one-China policy," she said.

The meetings between Lin and Roxas began Thursday at the government's Department of Trade and Industry building.

Lin also visited a Taiwanese trade fair, where a Taiwanese flag was displayed, posing before television cameras while inspecting products ranging from hair clips and coffeepots to industrial equipment.

He planned to visit Taiwanese factories in what could be one of the most high profile visits by a Taiwanese government official in recent years to the Philippines.

Asked to react to the Chinese Embassy statement, Lin said his trip was official but non-political.

"What we have here is basically eco-

nomic cooperation and trade activities. We will not touch on anything political," said Lin, speaking through an interpreter.

Lin is also leading nearly 50 Taiwanese businessmen looking for investment opportunities in the Philippines. He will return home Saturday.

Lin said he was to find ways of expanding bilateral relations in the areas of fishing, agriculture and investment.

China opposes any official exchanges with Taiwan by countries with which Beijing has diplomatic relations.

China claims Taiwan is a breakaway province with no right to foreign relations. The Philippines has diplomatic relations with Beijing, but maintains strong unofficial and economic ties with Taipei.

Taiwan, however, has a large business presence in the Philippines and is one of the country's largest investors. Two-way trade between the Philippines and Taiwan amounted to \$6.5 billion last year.

Lin praised the Philippine government for taking steps to make the country an attractive investment but said Taiwanese businessmen were concerned over the stability of water and power supply and labor unrest.

He also warned that demands for steep wage increases might result in company closures.

"You can't kill the hen for her eggs," Lin said.

Jeffrey Koo, a prominent Taiwanese businessman, said the Philippines should strive to be more competitive, noting it is

closer to Taiwan but gets considerably less Taiwanese investment than nearby Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Taiwan's trade mission will also visit Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Taiwan, with one of Asia's wealthiest economies, is intensifying trade ties with Southeast Asia amid an economic slowdown. Its currency hit a 15-year low and the stock market sustained setbacks this week.

Lin said he expected the Taiwanese economy to recover, but added the Taiwanese government would not intervene to strengthen the Taiwanese dollar.

Lin's visit came a day after the Philippine government said it planned to strengthen its coordination with China to stop the huge flow of illegal drugs coming from that country.

Miguel Coronel, executive director of the National Drug Law Enforcement and Coordinating Center, told a news conference on Tuesday that China was the biggest source of the stimulant methamphetamine hydrochloride, or "shabu," in the country.

He said 75 percent of foreign drug traffickers arrested in the Philippines in the past three years were from China. Of the 30 foreigners arrested in the Philippines this year, 20 were from China.

In March, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the illegal drug trade in the Philippines was worth P260 billion a year and about 95 percent of the drugs, mostly shabu, came from China. Reports from AP and Reuters

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Reading: Gen 4:1-7, 28-30

Mt 10:16-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard with respect to people, for they will hand you over to their courts and they will flog you in their synagogues. You will be brought to trial before rulers and kings because of me, and so you may witness to them and the pagans."

But when you are arrested, do not worry about what you are to say and how you are to say it; when the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say. For it is not you who will speak; but it will be the Spirit of your Father in you.

Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever stands firm to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. For sure, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Commentary:

Just as Jesus met with strong opposition, so the disciples had to brace themselves for the very same opposition to happen during their mission. They will be hated by all. This hatred will come not only from outside the community, but even from inside the very family. Exactly at the center of the description of the two kinds of persecution, Matthew places the promise of the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Contrary to popular perception, the evangelist wants the persecutions to be understood as moments of grace and points out the cleansing effect of persecution on the disciples. It is a privileged time when the Spirit of the Father will speak through them.

Father, we are easily confused when we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus. Grant us faith and serenity to accept our cross every day.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Credibility of witness—As a general rule, the evaluation of the credibility of witnesses is a matter that particularly falls within the authority of the trial court, as it had the opportunity to observe the demeanor of the witnesses on the stand. For this reason, appellate courts accord its factual findings and assessments of witnesses with great weight and even finality, barring arbitrariness or oversight of some fact or circumstance of weight and substance. In this case, the trial court found complainant credible and her testimony truthful. Appellant has not shown any sufficient reason to overturn this assessment. Indeed, complainant, in a clear and straightforward manner, narrated how she had been raped by appellant. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, First Division, People v. Bantayan, G.R. No. 137693, December 14, 2000]

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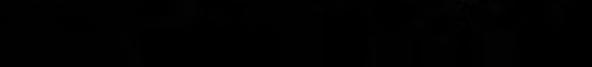
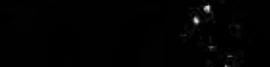
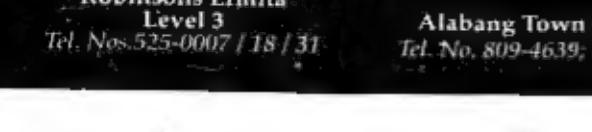
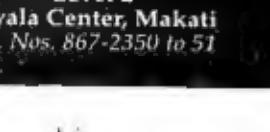
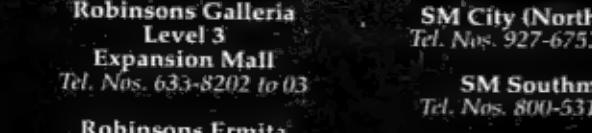
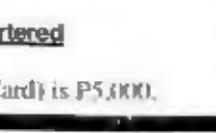
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Supreme Court dismisses judge for illicit affair with woman

By J. NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A Cebu judge and namesake of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was dismissed from the service after the Supreme Court found him guilty of immorality for having an illicit affair with a woman.

The high tribunal also barred Ferdinand J. Marcos from holding any position in government corporations and ordered the forfeiture of his retirement benefits.

In its July 6 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that Marcos was unfit to remain as Regional Trial Court judge and "has demonstrated himself to be wanting of moral integrity."

"He has violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires every judge to be the embodiment of competence, integrity and independence and to

avoid the appearance of impropriety in all activities as to promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary," the decision said.

The decision was signed by 11 justices, including Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who personally saw Marcos with his partner during a fun jog participated in by judges and court employees at the Cebu City Sports Complex last year.

The four justices who did not sign the decision were either on leave or on official business.

Notwithstanding the court decision, Marcos said he was "not completely down." He told radio station dyLA that he would file a motion for reconsideration.

His estranged wife Rotilla had mixed emotions when she learned of Marcos' dismissal.

Marcos and Rotilla were married on Dec. 31, 1971 at the first Bap-

"We cannot gloss

over the incident that happened during the fun run as recounted by Chief Justice Davide," it said.

Marcos, it added, even "candidly admitted" to Davide that he has been living with the woman for the last three years because "he was already separated from his wife."

The accused should not have brought his partner to a public function because he is still legally married to Rotilla although they have long been separated, according to the court.

"This conduct is certainly unbecoming of a judge whose conduct must all times be beyond reproach," it said.

Marcos denied the allegation and accused his wife of having an affair with his cousin. He even filed an adultery case against his wife and sought the annulment of their marriage.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court said Marcos' allegations did not excuse him for his action.

"We cannot gloss

Smugglers cashing in on contraband rice

RICE smuggling has evolved into a profitable business in the country, with an annual estimated volume of up to 500,000 tons, officials said.

"We have what we call a guerrilla type of operation.

Smugglers use private wharfs," Deputy Customs Commissioner Ray Alias told a forum on rice smuggling.

Alias said the customs bureau had so far seized 34 shipments of contraband rice, including those coming from Thailand and Vietnam, since the start of the year. He did not give the total volume of the grain imported by his bureau.

Under the law, only the state-trading firm National Food Authority can directly import the staple grain to fill the shortfall in local production.

"Sometimes when they asked us, 'What's the volume of smuggled rice?' if we know the answer, then we are the smugglers," NFA Deputy Administrator Gregorio Tan said at the forum.

"Under an extrapolated system, it would still be around 400,000 to 500,000 tons (annually)," he said.

The Philippines has been importing rice since 1983 to fill shortfalls in the local production. Official imports this year are expected to reach 774,000 tons, including 104,000 tons given by the US government under a soft-loan agreement.

Low prices

Officials said the lower rice prices in the world market this year compared to the high cost of locally produced rice has probably spurred smuggling in recent months.

The international price of rice now is at its lowest.

Previously, the price was around... \$250 to \$300 per ton. Now it is down to \$165. So the profitability has increased simply because international world market price has gone down," Tan said.

Locally produced rice costs between \$300 and \$340 per ton, according to NFA officials.

The higher price in the Philippines compared to other Asian countries is mostly due to higher production costs stemming from the lack of modern farm equipment, farm-to-market roads and irrigation facilities.

Officials said the lack of resources, including ships, in country with one of the longest shorelines in the world, had made it more difficult for Philippine authorities to monitor the smuggling of commodities operations.

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PART VIII

A FRESH START

As we enter the second semester, it is everyone's hope that the economy will have a fresh start.

In a meeting with the President, businessmen expressed the urgent need for the Government to address the Mindanao problem, the kidnappings, and for the military to make a major breakthrough so that optimism will return. Thus, all of us – Government, Business and the Labor Sector -- can concentrate on the economy.

PROACTIVE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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- She has reshuffled both the police and military leadership to replace ineffective commanders.
- She has committed to pump-prime the economy with labor-intensive and housing projects that have a multiplier effect.

PROACTIVE MEASURES: GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WORKING TOGETHER

- Manufacturers have committed to DTI not to increase prices of basic commodities in July.
- Manufacturers are requested to make available prime commodities at factory prices to NFA rolling stores in the depressed areas nationwide.
- The Pharmaceutical Industry is requested to support Government's campaign to reduce by 50% the prices of medicines within the next 12 months by promoting the use of generic drugs.
- The business sector is requested to proactively work with the Government and the NGOs in reaching out to the marginalized sector by adopting a "barrio", patterned after the Peace Corps volunteer program.

OUTLOOK OF THE ECONOMY - 3rd & 4th QUARTERS

- Compared to the second quarter, the economy will slightly pick up and perform better in the third quarter. This is because, as manufacturers in the Philippines and around the world bring their inventory to a minimum level, any slight rise in demand will translate into increased production and the hiring of workers previously laid off.
- The economy will perform better in the fourth quarter than the third quarter as traditionally consumer spending increases during the holiday season. At the same time, the increased remittances of overseas workers will strengthen our foreign reserves.

We look forward to the return of optimism, confidence and dynamism in both Government and the private sector. In this light, the President's State of the Nation Address should set our future directions and firm up Government's resolve in coping with the challenges.

The impact of these measures will begin to be felt in the latter half of the year, just in time for the revival of consumer demand and the buoyancy that usually comes with the Christmas season.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman



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Persecuted pose

IN THE LATEST episode of the real-life drama that has seen him being ousted from the presidency and now being haled to court, Joseph Estrada pleaded that he be given "a fair trial, according to the rule of law, free from intimidation, malice and undue pressure in the courts." Last Wednesday, the day after he was arraigned on a charge of plunder, Estrada complained that during the impeachment proceedings, he was "summarily convicted in a trial by publicity, motivated by political ambitions and abetted by a biased media." "This is injustice of the highest order," he protested.

EDITORIALS During the impeachment proceedings, he was "summarily convicted in a trial by publicity, motivated by political ambitions and abetted by a biased media." "This is injustice of the highest order," he protested.

It's a role the former movie actor has played to the hilt: that of the persecuted hero. And why not? Driven out of power in January by a people fed up with his incompetence in running the government and the corruption of his administration, Estrada claimed he was the victim of the economic elite, church leaders and the media who conspired to bring him down because he was championing the cause of the poor. That pose apparently played well among his supporters who launched an attack on Malacañang last May 1 and almost succeeded in restoring him to the presidency.

It's time somebody told Estrada, "Kumita na 'yan." He can't forever be playing to the gallery. He is facing serious charges and he must answer them in court. And while history will ultimately render its verdict, right now it's for the justices of the Sandiganbayan to determine whether he is innocent or guilty as charged.

Estrada and his lawyers have been repeating that old refrain about being denied due process and the chance to present his side. With his battery of well-known lawyers and with his allies in the Senate rushing to his defense, how could he say that about the impeachment trial? True, he never got to present witnesses and evidence in his favor, but for that he can only blame his lawyers and the 11 senators who thought they were doing him a favor by blocking the introduction of vital evidence. Their vote aborted the impeachment trial and ensured that his side would not be heard.

Now Estrada has the chance to present his side before a court of law. But again it's his lawyers who are delaying the process by throwing roadblocks every inch of the way. As of the last count, they had filed a total of 68 motions—all of which have to be acted upon before the trial can begin. So who is denying him the opportunity to defend himself before the court of public opinion?

In his latest public statement, Estrada said that he "fully recognizes the jurisdiction" of the Sandiganbayan over the cases. That's not how it looked when he refused to enter a plea during his arraignment. A better way for Estrada to demonstrate that he is submitting himself to the court's jurisdiction is to tell his lawyers to drop all their petty motions so that his trial can begin very soon.

In the meantime, he and his lawyers should stop all these public appeals for impartiality, fairness, respect for due process, etc. They serve no other purpose than to undermine public confidence in the impartiality of the justices, the integrity of the Sandiganbayan and the justness of any verdict that they may finally reach.

Pity

ONE thing Joseph Estrada cannot deny: he has not been denied the right to be represented by counsel. During the impeachment trial, Estrada was defended by a team of legal luminaries led by retired Chief Justice Andres Narvaza and former Justice Secretary Estelito Mendoza. Except for Mendoza, who pleaded ill health, he has the same legal team defending him in the cases that the Ombudsman filed before the Sandiganbayan. Plus former Sen. Rene Saguisag, and very recently former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas.

It's probably one of the best legal panels money can buy—or cannot buy. Saguisag has said he is serving pro bono, while Cuevas has announced that he would not be sending any bill to Estrada, but merely rely on the latter's "magnanimity" to give the appropriate compensation for his efforts.

Estrada should be touched by Cuevas' magnanimity. Early last year, Estrada dismissed Cuevas from his Cabinet after some serious disagreements over the grant of parole to priest killer Norberto Manero and how to deal with presidential cronies Lucio Tan and Mark Jimenez. But all that is forgiven, Cuevas said, especially after Estrada asked for his help. "I took pity on him," he said.

Now all those who cannot afford the services of lawyers know where to get topnotch legal representation. If, despite Estrada's already formidable defense team, Cuevas couldn't turn down his appeal for help, surely he will not turn away, say, an impoverished farmer accused of stealing a carabao.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inquirer.net



A happy ending, finally, on Mehan Gardens row?

THE FIGHT over the Mehan Gardens between Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and militant environmental groups may finally come to a happy conclusion. Atienza's beloved City College of Manila may be constructed in Intramuros as this column suggested last June 27. The vacant lot belongs to the Department of Tourism which supervises the Intramuros Administration which, in turn, has authority over all constructions inside Intramuros. The lot can be swapped with the Mehan Gardens which the DOT can then develop. Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon should immediately approve the deal as it would be good for all parties concerned.

This is the best compromise we can think of. Atienza will have his college, and the environmentalists will be able to save the Mehan Gardens. As for the DOT and the IA, they will have one more building in the wasteland that is Intramuros. In the many years that the IA has been trying to rebuild Intramuros, it has been able to entice few lot owners to build on their pieces of property. This is a golden opportunity to have one more building erected there—with Castilian architecture as the law requires, of course.

The former Walled City can be said to be the new education center of Manila. With four universities already there—Letran, Lyceum, Mapua and the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila—it is the logical choice for the CCM. The lot on which it is proposed to be built is the former campus of the Ateneo de Manila. The location may prod the new CCM students to study harder. (I had suggested the former University of Sto. Tomas campus on Aduana and, since it is now owned by the Far East Bank, to swap it with the present CCM school, the former Philippine National Bank Building on the Escolta which was designed and built precisely for a bank. But the former Ateneo campus is even better because the swap will be between government agencies and there shouldn't be too much haggling.)

Developing the Mehan Gardens for tourism should be a breeze for the DOT. That is its specialty, isn't it? The Department of Environment and Natural Resources can help as it is Secretary Heherson Alvarez, after all, who has been mediating in the quarrel. The environmental groups, on the other hand, have volunteered to develop it at no cost to the government. So there, with so many people ready, willing and able to develop the Mehan Gardens, the new

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

park can be inaugurated by Christmas.

It wouldn't be hard to do that, too. All you have to do is tear up the concrete pavements, plant grass and trees and put park benches. I suggest making it again a *jardin botanica* with Philippine trees and plants that are getting rare. In place of the old zoo (we already have the Manila Zoo near Harrison Park), I suggest a petting zoo and a pond with fish, ducks and geese. Children in Metro Manila rarely see farm animals anymore except in photographs and movies and television. The Mehan Gardens would be their chance to see—and touch—small farm animals like goats, sheep, colts, calves, pigs and chicken.

While the fight for the speakership of the House is over except for the formality (Rainbow man Joe de Venecia is it), the fight for the Senate presidency is far from over in spite of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's announced preference for Sen. Franklin Drilon. Nobody yet has the numbers there. The People Power Coalition and the opposition senators are evenly balanced. It is the independent senators who can make any candidate the Senate president.

The problem with the PPC is that it has three candidates: Drilon, Renato Cayetano and Joker Arroyo. The opposition has only one: Edgardo Angara. The independents have incumbent Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

If the independents are smart, their leader can end up as Senate president pro tempore. By teaming up either the administration or opposition group, they can make one or the other candidate the winner. For which reason they can bargain for the No. 2 post in the Senate.

The administration and opposition candidates cannot be too *pakipot*. If a three-way deadlock occurs, Pimentel may end up as the holdover Senate president.

I can't help but note the similarity between Ador and Rosebud or Mara Hari. Both claim to be former agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force now ratting on their former boss, Panfilo Lacson. Rosebud first appeared on television with her face darkened so she can't be identified. Later she came out in the open and continued spilling the beans in media. Ador first came out on TV with his face covered, also ratting on Lacson. Later he also came out in the open, using his real name and continued with his tales.

It is interesting that when Rosebud and her tales became stale and the media lost interest, Ador surfaced with similar stories to tell against Lacson. Whoever are their handlers are in a rut. But they seem to believe in the saying "if at first you don't succeed, try and try again."

One thing that many observers notice in Ador is that he seems to know too much. Like the Alfred Hitchcock character, he is "the man who knows too much." And that is the reason he loses credibility the more he talks. Even NBI Director Reynaldo Wyoco has advised not to pay too much attention to him.

A person in Ador's place (or Rosebud's), who are mere "agents" (a better name for "informants") of the PAOTCF, are paid to inform their handlers, not to tell sensitive information that can endanger their co-workers. Even regular agents of intelligence agencies are given information only on a "need to know" basis. Information even for senior officers of intelligence units are compartmentalized. Nobody knows anything outside his department. This is to prevent leaks. And if there is, it is easy to know from whom the leak came from from the type of information that leaked out.

So it is hard to believe that Ador really knows all that he has been spilling daily in media. There is such a thing as going overboard. Ador and his handlers may be overdoing it.

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guest on Monday's Kapihan in Manila (Hotel) are the leading candidates in the races for the Senate presidency and the House speakership: Senators Franklin Drilon, Renato Cayetano and Edgardo Angara; and Representatives Jose de Venecia and Florencio Abad.

The Japan that can't remember

THE MODERN Japan we know is an oasis of civilization. Its citizens are the most law-abiding and courteous you will meet anywhere. Its government is the most generous provider of international assistance. Its industries churn out technological wonders by the hundreds each year while "Made in Japan" are bywords for quality and reliability. Its culture and cuisine are among the most refined in the world.

Our admiration for Japan compounds our perplexity at the continued refusal of its successive governments since World War II to acknowledge and then apologize for Japan's appalling criminal record during that period of military supremacy and expansion. This steadfast obduracy through six decades and into the seventh has infuriated its neighbors, its allies, its friends and even the beneficiaries of its post-war largesse.

The latest incident includes the utter refusal of Japan's Ministry of Education to correct the history textbooks it issues which either ignores or glosses over Japan's rapacity in Asia during the war. China and South Korea in particular have been outraged over this self-sustained amnesia.

And for good reason. Korea's humiliation and suffering under Japanese colonialization is well documented. We would have to go back almost 2,500 years for a historical analogy to the relationship between Japan and Korea during this period: Sparta and its Helots, although the Helots probably had it better. Japan's record in China between 1931 and 1945 is one of unspeakable brutality. We are familiar with that behavior. So hated were the Japanese in the Philippines during and immediately following the war that individual Japanese put their lives at risk by visiting certain areas of the country. But time has healed deep wounds, and Japan's post-war conduct has been close to impeccable.

Nonetheless, there are jarring juxtapositions. Just these past few weeks, the Japanese have been deeply angered at a rape in Okinawa by an American serviceman. Properly so. Yet when contrasted with the decision of its Ministry of Education, it again highlights Japan's inability to place the sufferings of other nations or citizens on a par with its own. It is widespread knowledge of these atrocities.

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

an attitude that many suspect comes perilously close to racism.

Just look at the facts on the famous "Rape of Nanking." The walled city of Nanking, then the provisional capital of China, fell to the invading Japanese on Dec. 13, 1937 after a defense of only five days. Once it fell, the Japanese began mass executions, murder, rape, pillage and plunder in the city and its adjacent six rural villages that lasted for three months. On the first day alone, General Nakajima's 16th Division killed some 32,300 Chinese prisoners of war in Nanking. On the night of Dec. 16, more than 17,000 unarmed men and boys were executed on orders of Gen. Inuma Mamoru so that no harm might befall Prince Asaka when he paraded through the city on horseback the next day.

The total number of Chinese atrocity victims in Nanking remains hotly disputed. The best Japanese estimates put the figure at above 200,000. The war crimes trial in Nanking accepted a figure of "over 300,000." Nanking's population was 400,000. The Japanese slaughtered between half and three-fourths of the population of China's capital. This pattern of brutality was repeated throughout Asia and through the period of war.

The exact rape numbers are also disputed but are indisputably large. Some 1,000 women and girls of all ages were raped daily. The raping continued from December until late March. The records of members of the Imperial Army, the Army Ministry and the Foreign Ministry confirm that there was widespread knowledge of these atrocities.

The Japanese military record in the Philippines was no less horrible. The *kempeitai* or military police were as ruthless as their Gestapo counterparts in Nazi Germany. Fort Santiago became a bed of

torture from which heroes never emerged alive. Filipinos were regularly brutalized.

But the worst episodes were to come as the Americans began the liberation of the Philippines. Entire families and the inhabitants of whole city blocks were slaughtered in Manila. The De La Salle compound, where refugees gathered, was the scene of one of countless such ongoing massacres in the city: babies ripped open with samurai swords so they could die slow, painful deaths; the Christian brothers killed with casual indifference. To this day, many of those who survived the horror of the War Years are psychologically unable to recount their experience.

Herbert Bix, in "Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan," details scholarly facts which leave the reader with the inescapable conclusion that these atrocities happened, that they happened with the knowledge and acquiescence, if not the encouragement of the highest organs of the Japanese state, not excluding the Emperor himself, and that there has been a largely successful and continuing official Japanese conspiracy to expunge, distort or deny that terrible record.

It is as incomprehensible to me why modern Japan continues to obfuscate its past as how a nation as cultured as Germany could have descended into the Nazi pit. But Germany has been, by and large, open with its history and it is this very openness that has helped create a democratic powerhouse that is the economic center of Europe. Japan's failure to do the same confuses and angers not its enemies but its friends.

How can a nation be so indignant, rightfully so, over one rape yet so deaf, dumb and blind over hundreds of thousands of others? How can they mourn Hiroshima and Nagasaki but be blind over the deaths of many more? How can they stone-facedly, never mind shamelessly, ignore the whole question of comfort women? They are not shaming their ancestors by telling the truth. Rather, it was those who committed these crimes in World War II who shamed their own ancestors as well as their descendants. It is time for this great and proud race, our friends, to finally put the past behind them and move on.

Threat of a dark horse in the Senate

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



THE PHILIPPINE Senate is living up to its reputation as a centrifugal institution—meaning it operates on the principle of fission, rather than fusion. Nothing illustrates the dynamic of this powerful chamber more vividly than the uncertain contest for the Senate presidency.

With only 10 days ahead to the opening session of Congress, nothing is clear about the outcome of the contest, except that the silhouette of a dark horse is looming in the landscape—the de facto opposition leader, Sen. Edgardo Angara.

The threat of a dark horse should put pressure on the administration's fractious allies in the Senate to close ranks behind a single candidate. So, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may yet find an opposition *coup de grâce* in the Senate leadership not through lack of numbers but by default.

Senators Franklin Drilon and Rene Cayetano have emerged as the main contenders for the administration coalition, but Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. can't be counted out as a compromise. The state of parties in the Senate is as follows:

The Lapiang Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) is the largest single bloc composed of Angara, Blas Ople, Vicente Sotto III, Rodolfo Diaz, Tessie Aquino-Oreja and Gregorio Honasan. Senators Luisa Ejercito-Estrada and Panfilo Lacson should be counted part of this bloc, giving it a total of eight. This is the largest single bloc in the Senate.

On the other side, Lakas has four holdover senators—Cayetano, Robert Barbers, Juan Flavio and Loren Legarda-Levisite. This bloc is Cayetano's hard core. Identified with the PDP-Laban are Senators Joker Arroyo, Sergio Osmeña III and Pimentel, although Serge acts more like an independent than a die-hard party member. Drilon is part of the People Power Coalition which won 8-5-1 in the May elections, together with Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Drilon's formal party affiliation is the LDP, but he and Angara split during the Estrada administration's crisis. Sen. John Osmeña was identified with Estrada during the impeachment trial, but after the May elections, he leaned toward President Macapagal and pushed the approval of the

Omnibus Power Bill in the last Congress.

Arroyo, also of the PPC, has independent tendencies and is being pushed as another dark horse by the Senate newcomers, including Manuel Villar. Senators Robert Jaworski and Ramon Revilla are counted as administration allies. Sen. Noli de Castro claims to be independent which means, in effect, that he is neither here nor there—i.e., a flotsam.

No one can build alliances in the Senate mainly on the basis of the PPC or the Puwersa Massa. These two competing coalitions have dissolved. Thus, senators have to fall back on their basic party affiliations as the core for coalition building. From the above configurations, it is clear that Angara, with his LDP, has the largest structural core for coalition-building. On the other hand, administration allies are fragmented, if not loosely linked.

This is the reason why the President has stepped into the fray inside the administration to pull the squabbling factions together. She is said to be backing Drilon, but the more important thing is that these factions close ranks behind someone. Anyone who cries "foul" over presidential intervention is either politically naïve or out of touch with the realpolitik of the Senate. Senators are jealous of their independence and have protested too much, but the reality is that presidential intervention is a fact of life in the election of the speaker and the Senate president.

No Senate president has ever been elected without the blessing or intervention of the President of the Republic, and President Macapagal is no different from her predecessors. The reason is simple, yet compelling. No President, if he or she can help it, would allow the opposition to seize control of Congress and of the legisla-

tive agenda. In the May elections, the government won more seats than the opposition, so the logic is that it should have the edge to control the Senate.

Power-sharing between Drilon and Cayetano to close the fractures opened by the contending factions is a foolish formula. The administration has only two years to go before the next presidential election. Under power-sharing, the Senate would have two presidents in two years. This violates continuity. This arrangement ignores an important Senate dynamic—that chamber is prone to upheavals of leadership, especially where no party has a clear majority, giving rise to volatile coalition-making that can wreck a pre-arranged framework.

Former President Estrada calmed the conflict in the Senate with the power-sharing formula between Ople and Drilon. If it worked, after the death of Senate President Marcelo Fernan, it was because Estrada had no legislative agenda, so it really did not matter whether it was Drilon or Ople at the helm.

The Macapagal administration is driven by an agenda, policies and programs. Logic dictates that its legislative agenda is better served if the leadership in the House and in Senate is in the hands of her allies. No doubt, Angara is also agenda- and program-oriented, but the opposition's agenda is not the administration's agenda.

The administration has the potential numbers to win control of the Senate, provided that it can cobble its factions behind a single candidate for the Senate presidency. Vice President Teofisto Guingona is wasting his time promoting power-sharing, which is an enemy of continuity and stability in the chamber. The problem in the Senate is that senators have an invincible belief that they are all presidential material and each has a national base, so it's hard to form coalitions in that chamber. Coalition is made more difficult by the multi-party composition of the Senate.

The pressure to close ranks is stronger on the administration's allies than on the opposition because if they allow Angara to squeak through their disunity, they will scuttle the administration's opportunity to dictate the legislative agenda.

Simple pleasures

NOTHING forces so harsh a self-appraisal as one's 60th birthday. For some of us there are really only two individuals—the you of 30 years ago, with your ignorance and innocence and dreams of glory largely influenced by the likes of Mandino and Helen Gurley Brown; and the you of now, laid back your 22-inch waist giving way to the battle of the bulge, desire succumbing grimly to resignation.

This seems to be

happening more and more—I'd find myself sitting alone, reading, solving crossword puzzles, listening to my favorite Broadway hits, sipping my milk with calcium-laced coffee—it's the most piercing sign of getting older; this self-introspection.

And so, I had been asking myself just what joys make life so precious. There is certainly the sense of fulfilling one's potential. Another lies in those moments when a family, despite its rivalries and angers, does jell and senses its intense bonds.

No more dreaming of what might have been which Shakespeare says are the saddest of all the words of tongue and pen. Rather being comforted by the thought that one must never regret what might have been. For after all, the past that did not happen is as hidden from us as the future we cannot

Tasting and savoring the gift of simple pleasures are, therefore, what life at 60 is all about.

Item 1—Taking great pride in your four gifted children, letting them go to explore their own worlds, allowing them to make their own mistakes, hoping that they can manage and God-willing, learn first-hand lessons from life. That it is never what it seems, but is nonetheless what you make it, what you salvage from its shocks and offerings.

Item 2—Marveling at your three grandchildren's antics, their never-ending questions about what makes things tick. Samples—"Lola, what's the fastest animal on earth? Why can it run so fast?" (Read—"I bet you were not able to catch that feature on Discovery Channel.")

"Lola, do you have money?" (Read—"Can we check out the latest special offers at Jollibee or McD's?")

Item 3—Luxuriating in the fact that now you have all the time in your hands to do whatever you please with no more thought of the eight-hour labor law. Focusing on such minutiae as the right amount of fertilizer to ensure a flower-filled vanda or a flourishing bonsai. Staying up late at night to hear Martin Nievera's intimitable rendition of "Pag-Uwi," the Metropop's first-prize winner, or catching the spirit lifters like "Touched by an Angel."

Why, you can even try any TV quiz show like "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and fulfill your lifetime dream of joining a contest of brains, not only beauty and winning millions along the process. The possibilities seem certainly limitless!

Item 4—Looking forward to orchestrating your mother's 80th birthday celebration, a brainchild of your seven siblings from the far reaches of Germany, Canada and the United States. (Tickler—Do not forget to hire the best musical band in town and the services of five DJs!)

Meanwhile, ensuring that the would-be celebrator lives until Nov. 11 at least, with the aid of her numerous specialists and her two yaya and praying that the angel of death has still other climes to visit.

Feeling humbled that you have a ringside view of the inexorable march of old age and realizing what happens when the healthy tissues of one's body slowly succumb to diabetes and cholesterol excess. This intimations of mortality somehow act as a deterrent to whatever dreams you have of lasagna, lechon kawali, crème puffs and durian ice cream.

Item 5—Realizing that people are like ropes. That if there's no harmony between people, they rub each other until they begin to fray and they'll soon be asunder, be it friend to friend, or man to wife.

Thanking God that He has given you the love of your life, hopeless romantic that you are. That somehow you may do a Julia Roberts yet and turn out to be someone's ultimate she. Surely, hope still springs eternal in an aging breast.

Item 6—Strengthening your relationship with God. Reflecting that in this life you sometimes have to choose between pleasing God and pleasing man. Resolving that in the long run, it's better to please God. He's more apt to remember.

Item 7—Bearing in mind that there are things one can never forgive oneself. The betrayal of trusting friends. Returning love with hatred. Crime against the innocent and helpless. Stupidity. The rejection of permitted pleasure. Gloom where there is sunshine. Arrogance without reason. Hypocrisy. Cruelty. Lies. Deserts. Malice. Deceit...

Item 8—Zeroing in to these words—the summation of one's lifetime readings attributed to an Italian monk, Fra Giovanni:

"No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant. Take peace."

"The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within our reach, is Joy. Take joy."

I'll take peace and joy anytime!

Heidi Fesalboni-Cervantes, 60, retired from an administrative job in government.

Haydee has work cut out for her

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



IF anyone can straighten out the mess that is the PCGG, that should be Haydee Yorac, who has just accepted the post of chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, "after a long courtship," as a front-page story yesterday put it.

Many folks may be wondering what all the fuss is about, since the PCGG has been effectively marginalized. Hailed soon after the first EDSA as the country's greatest hope of recovering the wealth the Marcoses and their cronies stole, today it's a symbol of the abject failure of the post-EDSA governments to bring the Marcoses to justice.

Of course, the Marcoses and their friends put up every obstacle imaginable, from the legal to the political, to trip up the recovery efforts. But a large part of the PCGG's failure must be laid at the doorstep of the various officials who took charge of the commission.

In the early days of the Aquino administration, there was already loose talk, as well as news reports, of how various PCGG "agents" as well as officials were acting like minor potentates in the companies where they were assigned supposedly to protect the interests of the public. "Sequestered" firms became virtual milking cows for these appointees, who voted themselves generous salaries and privileges. It was these same appointees who vigorously resisted privatization for fear of losing their sinecures.

As an example, consider the sequestered private media outfit, such as Channels 9 and 13, and the Times Journal group which were supposed to be sold to private investors, but are still under sequestration today. What administration, after all, could resist the temptation of a virtual media empire that could be used to promote its political agenda?

BUT IT'S in the work of recovering the Marcoses' hidden wealth that is the PCGG's greatest failure.

Case after case, including a spectacular trial in New York based on an anti-racketeering law, was filed against the Marcoses, only to go down in flames. I don't remember now if this was said about the PCGG, but the quip applies as well. Its record is certainly "unblemished by victory."

I can understand, though, why Yorac took on

the challenge despite everyone's skepticism. The challenge remains, after all. As the attempted withdrawal of funds by Irene Marcos Araneta in Germany shows, the family has not really given up on attempts to access the money they had to secrete away when the government fell. And obviously, there's still a lot of wealth kidnaped somewhere.

I take it as a very good sign that Yorac and her two new commissioners: former Defense Undersecretary Ruben Carranza Jr. (also a mean writer, by the way) and Victoria Arenas, both professors at the UP College of Law, have given themselves a two-year limit to fulfill the PCGG's original mandate.

The way I see it, either the government goes full throttle in its efforts to recover the wealth stolen from the people by the Marcoses and Company, or admit that the money is simply beyond the reach of legal processes. The wiser course should be to eat our losses and walk away.

YOU might remember the movie "Proof of Life." Much of the publicity centered on the affair that was sparked between "America's sweetheart" Meg Ryan and Russel Crowe, the movie's top stars. But it has an even greater significance for Filipinos as it focused on a problem about which we already know too much of: kidnapping.

The title, in fact, refers to any sort of proof demanded of kidnappers to show the hostage is still alive. It can be a photograph or video tape of the hostage holding up a newspaper, to show the "proof of life" was taken recently; or in more gruesome cases, an identifiable body part of the hostage.

In the film, Crowe plays a negotiator and "recovery expert" who drops in and out of hotspots to

rescue kidnap victims. He is employed by a multinational insurance firm, from whom companies which must send executives abroad have taken "kidnap insurance."

Well, the Philippines has joined the elite league of kidnap capitals, what with insurance for "kidnapping, extortion and ransom" now being offered. So, has kidnapping become so common it's as much a risk of daily life as car accidents, household mishaps and illness?

MIDDLE-CLASS Pinoys used to look on with bemusement at the string of kidnappings that had befallen the country in the early '90s. First, it was a "Chinese" problem, since majority of the victims hailed from the Tsinay community. Then it became a problem of the rich and super-rich, since only those whose families could afford to pay ransom are presumably in danger.

Lately, though we've been hearing stories of "opportunity kidnappings," abductions carried out only because kidnappers spotted a potential victim, saw an opening, and struck. Ransom demands have been subject to bargaining. Some gangs have resorted to grabbing children in malls in exchange for an ATM withdrawal.

In such a scenario, everybody is at risk, even families of common working folk who might just be all spiffed up for a weekend stroll around an air-conditioned mall.

As we can see from the Abu Sayyaf situation, in abductions, the poor hostages are even more vulnerable. While wealthy hostages are kept alive in expectation of rich rewards, the poor whose families could not ransom them are often the first to be killed or executed. The better to serve as "incentives" for the families of the wealthy to pay up.

Rich folks have already been paying one form of anti-kidnapping insurance or another. What are drivers/bodyguards, bulletproof vehicles, alarms, and in the most extreme cases, migration to a "safer" country but a mode of "insurance" against abduction? I wouldn't put it past the kidnap gangs to now start monitoring insurance placements. After all, if you feel impelled to take out kidnap insurance, you must be worth kidnapping.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... ?

Mall bombing suspects

A JANITOR was killed while 17 others were injured when a bomb exploded in a comfort room in one of SM Megamall's cinemas in Mandaluyong on May 21, 2000, a week after a bomb also exploded in Glorieta 3 in Makati where 13 people were hurt. (PDI, 5/22/00)

The Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force pointed the bombings to alleged Moro Islamic Liberation Front members out to sow terror in the metropolis to divert the government's attention from the war against the separatist group in Mindanao.

Before dawn on May 27, 2000, 26 suspects were arrested when the PAOCTF raided a Muslim community in Maharlika Village in Lower Bicutan, Taguig. They were detained at the PAOCTF.

The PAOCTF filed two cases for murder with multiple frustrated murder against all 26 suspects with the Mandaluyong RTC Branch 214 for the SM Megamall bombing and with the Makati RTC Branch 137 for the Glorieta bombing.

The PAOCTF also filed four cases for violation of PD 1866, for allegedly keeping high-powered guns and explosives inside their houses, before Pasig RTC Branches 168 and 71.

Mandaluyong RTC Branch 214 Judge Edwin Sorongan first ordered the prosecution to conduct a preliminary investigation on June 2, 2000 and "complete the investigation within 15 days." By July 24, 2000, all the concerned judges ordered the conduct of preliminary investigation on the cases.

On Aug. 24, the defense assailed the Department of Justice's delay in issuing a resolution on the preliminary investigation ordered by the courts. Four days later, the justice department said that the preliminary investigation on all the cases shall be consolidated and held jointly. On Aug. 29, Sorongan compelled state prosecutor Alben Fonacier to submit the results of the preliminary investigation. But the DOJ has only set the preliminary investigation in September.

On Sept. 12, the prosecution informed the courts that it shall hold the results of its investigation until "it shall have assiduously evaluated the evidence submitted by the same parties..." The preliminary investigation started a week after. On Oct. 20, the prosecution said it will release the result of the investigation "in due time."

Last Jan. 8, Sorongan ordered the prosecution to release the results of the preliminary investigation since it has not yet issued its resolution on the case.

On Feb. 20, the DOJ issued a list of detainees committed in furtherance of their political beliefs or objectives. The list included 24 of the 26 accused. Due to this, the defense filed a motion for release on Feb. 26. On March 13, the 24 accused listed in the DOJ issuance were ordered released "on recognition of the custody of their lawyers..." Those who remained in detention were Nestor Solaiman and Ali Samad.

The court has set the arraignment of the suspects on March 8. But on the said date, the prosecution issued its resolution reiterating the accusation on the 26 suspects. The defense requested for a re-investigation of the DOJ resolution on March 23.

Case status: The DOJ hasn't released a result on the re-investigation requested by the accused. They have not yet been arraigned. Solaiman and Samad are still in jail.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Mehan Gardens controversy

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



WHEN my name appears in Bambi Harper's column, I am often tempted to reciprocate using a *sosyal* adjective to describe her as either an *amigo*, *enemiga*, or, at best, *intriga*. In a recent column on the Mehan Gardens controversy, she stated that I was the first president of the City College of Manila (I was the fourth), and that I resigned (true), because the College was plagued with lack of funds (not quite, the college was sufficiently funded, but like any government agency this was "subject to availability"). As an appointee of then Mayor Alfredo Lim, I resigned when he ran, unsuccessfully, for president in 1998

Lack of faith in God's providence

I AM against the reported plan to impose tithing in the Catholic Church for the simple reason that tithing indicates a lack of faith in a loving and provident God.

Bishops, priests and other religious leaders should perform their God-given mission without any regard for compensation and let God take care of their material needs. And God will, as He has done without interruption and exception since the founding of the Church 2,000 years ago.

The imposition of fees for the administration of the sacraments, such as baptism and matrimony, is another manifestation

of a lack of deep faith on the part of those who ask us to have complete faith and trust in God. The Church should do away with all these fees and rely completely on God to prompt the faithful to support His Church with its material requirements.

And God will.

Let me just cite my experience. When I got married, the officiating priest surprised me and my bride when he said, in answer to my question, that he did not charge anything for his services. Because of his utter selflessness and complete devotion to his religious duties, I felt more obligated to show my appreciation than

if he had told me how much I should give. So I asked him if he would accept a donation. Yes, he replied. I happily wrote out a check which was much, much more than the prevailing fee then for wedding services. I believe this is what will happen when the faithful see the whole-hearted dedication and devotion of the clergy to their sacred vocation. There will be no need for tithes and fees. The believers will dig deep into their pockets and give until it hurts. With deep faith and sincere prayers (accompanied by a vigorous fund-raising campaign on the parish level), the Church will end up with



LETTERS

more financial and material support than it is now getting.

This was the challenge hurled by Jesus Christ when he sent out his first followers to preach and spread the gospel throughout the world. This is the same leap of faith He wants us to take today.—GERRY GALLIAN, 53 Dr. B. Castañeda, Manda-uyong City

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



To ban or not to ban

I UNDERSTAND Erap himself wants his trial for plunder covered by television. As do his lawyers. That is at least something I share with them, if for entirely different reasons.

Erap and his lawyers probably figure that the media exposure would bring them public sympathy, the way the airing of Erap's arrest did to them a couple of months ago. I would not discount the possibility—up to a point. Erap has an instinctive grasp of the images that move the public, and is perfectly capable of playing the role of underdog to the hilt. The underdog who is beset by formidable adversity midway in the movie but triumphs in the end: that is the plotline of his movies. And, well, he has shown himself a far better actor in real life than in the movies. He almost managed to convince us for a while that he was president of the country.

But if they think it will fuel mass restiveness the way Erap's arrest did, they have another think coming. "Edsa III," as I've said before, came from wrong timing. Had it happened before the elections, and had government been more careful about the images it beamed, it would not have happened at all. Now is the best time to try Erap, when government is more stable and when candidates do not have to pander to the crowd to get elected. Now is the time to make the sordid details of Erap's plunder known by making the trial public. The fear that televising the trial would light up another powder keg is completely unfounded. Its more likely effect would be to turn the public against Erap, the way the impeachment trial did.

There is, quite incidentally, one public that would welcome that trial with open arms, and would like to see a blow-by-blow account of it. That is the global Filipino community, the same global Filipino community that helped in no small way to make Edsa II possible. The Filipinos in America, for one, are anxious to see it happen. Young and old, rich or poor, professional or TNT, they are one in that wish. Well, there are exceptions. I met a senior citizen in Fisherman's Wharf who hails from Sta. Mesa and who could not for the life of him understand what "they are doing to Erap back there, when they have only the word of well-known criminals against him." You have those types, but they are the rare exceptions.

I favor a televised account of the proceedings for several compelling reasons.

First, this is not an ordinary trial, this is the trial of the century for Filipinos. We have never tried a key official for corruption before, much less a president, and its implications are earthshaking. This isn't a purely legal matter, this is a political one. This has far-reaching implications for the future of the country. It behoves the people to know. At the very least, that knowledge should help to stay the hand of current officials from the cookie jar. If we can bring the most popular president of the Philippines to the dock for stealing, we can certainly do it to an obscure or unpopular public official. Who knows? Maybe it will prevent the venal and opportunist from seeking public office in the future by demonstrating to them that they are better off applying their energies to less riskier ventures. I did tell someone in America that my hope in particular is that this trial will dissuade the entertainers in particular from running for public office by showing them there is nothing funny about being a public official.

Quite apart from that, it should be a tremendous boost for national pride. It should raise the stock of Filipinos everywhere. The first two Edsas showed the world we Filipinos were willing to die for democracy. Erap's trial, whatever its outcome—and this being a criminal case, we must presume even a president innocent until proven guilty—should show the world we are willing to live for it.

Second, televising the trial should make it immensely educational in the same way that the impeachment trial was. Of course it could become too educational for the comfort of those who came before Erap. Giving the public to see the intricacies of official plunder should impact as well on them. Which is as it should be. The people who huddled at Edsa last April in a parody of people power did have a point when they said it wasn't Erap alone who pillaged the treasury. That is true, but that is not an argument for exonerating Erap by the principle of the equal application of laws. That is an argument only for indicting the others. Imelda first, Cory and Ramos later. They too stand accused of monumental plunder. By all means let us have a first trial—and Erap qualifies for it by the sheer mendacity of his abuse. But why shouldn't we have a second or third or fourth as well? There are no statutes of limitations on plunder. People who stole in the past should be tried, and where found guilty, punished too.

Televisioning the trial should help stoke questions like this and give rise to public clamor for pursuing what we have begun to its logical end.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@asia.com

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The WORLD

LIVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Seoul steps up book row with Tokyo

'SEOUL—Angered by Japan's refusal to revise controversial history textbooks, South Korea yesterday froze all bilateral military exchanges and canceled a planned visit to Tokyo by one of its top defense officials.

South Korea also revoked permission for two Japanese Navy drill ships to make a port call in Incheon in September. The Japanese vessels carrying graduating naval academy cadets left Japan in April for a navigation exercise to 13 Asian countries.

Seoul also ordered a freeze on opening up the country to Japanese cultural

products in protest at controversial Japanese school history textbooks.

Culture and Tourism Minister Kim Han-kil put an indefinite delay on allowing in Japanese pop music, television programs and adult films and animation, a ministry spokesperson said.

"We believe that South Korea-Japan military exchanges have to proceed on the basis of a correct understanding of history and mutual trust with the support of the peoples of the two countries," the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

A planned visit to Japan next week by Gen. Cho Young-goo, chair of the joint chiefs of staff, will also be canceled, the statement said.

Lt. Col. Chung Sung-yup, a ministry spokesperson, told reporters that

military exchanges with Japan will be suspended "until relations improve."

Cho's visit had been planned as part of high-level military exchanges between the two historical rivals. His Japanese counterpart visited Seoul early this year. The two countries' defense chiefs also exchanged visits annually the past two years.

Japan ruled the Korean Peninsula as a colony from 1910 to 1945. Now, Japan and South Korea have a thriving economic relationship and are co-hosts of next year's soccer World Cup. Millions of South Koreans and Japanese visit each other's country annually.

The part of the peninsula controlled by North Korea was also under Japanese rule.

Anti-Japanese sentiment has risen sharply here this week after Japan formally rejected South Korea's demand to revise eight middle school history textbooks that Seoul believes whitewash Japan's atrocities during World War II.

South Korea is particularly upset by the failure of those textbooks to mention tens of thousands of Korean and other Asian women who were forced to serve as sexual slaves for Japanese soldiers during the war.

Seoul-Tokyo relations had improved significantly after South Korean President Kim Dae-jung visited Japan in 1998 and pledged to put their thorny history past behind and work for a future-oriented relationship.

API/APP

Debate over stem cell rages

NORFOLK, Virginia—The debate over the ethics of stem-cell research intensified Wednesday with word that Virginia scientists have created human embryos in the lab solely for the valuable cells.

Medical ethicists say the development complicates the issue at a time when US President George W. Bush is weighing whether federal money should be used for research on embryonic stem cells.

Patient groups favor such research because of its breakthrough potential in treating diseases, while anti-abortion groups and others call such work unethical because it entails destroying the embryos.

"The turning of this has been somewhere between disastrous and horrific," said Arthur Caplan, a medical ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania. The development "throws everything in an uproar" and gives ammunition to those who argue that researchers are headed down a slippery slope.

Embryonic stem cells can mature into any cell or tissue. As a result, scientists say they someday may be used to repair or replace damaged tissue or organs in victims of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, cancer and spinal cord injuries.

Until now, researchers derived embryonic stem cells mostly from embryos left over from infertility treatments. Other researchers have derived stem cells from other sources, such as fat cells, bone marrow and aborted fetuses though the embryonic stem cells are the most useful.

In the Virginia case, scientists approached donors and informed them that their eggs and sperm would be used to develop embryos for stem-cell research.

Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson criticized the development on his television show Wednesday. "We're on the slippery slope now," he said. "Before long, we'll be harvesting body parts from fully formed people, not just from something in a petri dish. Once you begin this concept of utilitarian use of cells, then everything is up for grabs."

The work was done at the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine, a private fertility clinic responsible for the birth in 1981 of the America's first test-tube baby. The findings appeared Wednesday in the journal Fertility and Sterility, a publication of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine.

IT'S ENGINEERING MONTH FROM JULY 1-31

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Leaders pledge unity under African Union

LUSAKA, Zambia—African leaders pledged Wednesday to stop fighting and increase prosperity under a new African Union designed to replace the Organization of African Unity, which started out with much the same goals.

The African Union, first proposed in 1999 by Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, replaces the OAU, created 38 years ago to help Africa free itself from colonialist rulers. The leaders hope that a stronger organization, loosely modeled on the European Union, will be more successful at uniting the continent.

Taking a strident tone at the OAU's final summit, Gadhafi said the new union was reserved exclusively for blacks.

"We cannot be neutral here. We are here for the Africans, not the Europeans. We are here for the blacks, not the whites," said Gadhafi, who was greeted with cheers and applause at the summit's

conclusion.

African leaders agreed to form a parliament and a central bank, and to set up a commission of ministers, a secretariat and a permanent committee of

commissioners.

Africa does not have the luxury of time, he said. "If we hesitate, or procrastinate in implementing the decisions we have taken concerning the establishment of the African Union, time will pass us by."

Gadhafi said the new union would be a symbol of democracy and a court of justice.

Chiluba said he summed endorsed a new strategy for enriching the continent called the New African Initiative.

The strategy merges Omega, a plan created by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, and the Millennium Africa Recovery Plan, crafted by South African President Thabo Mbeki, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and Algerian President Abdel-Aziz Bouteflika.

It aims to merge the African Development Bank and a committee of 15 African heads of state—including those who crafted the plan—would be created soon to put the initiative under way.

Speakers at the ceremony lauded the summit and the birth of the union as a historic event.

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An undated family handout photo of Chandra Levy at her San Francisco State Graduation in San Francisco. Levy, 24, was last seen April 30, when she canceled her membership at a Washington health club.

Police search Condit home, analyze clues

WASHINGTON — Police are analyzing items they removed from Rep. Gary Condit's apartment for possible clues about the disappearance of former federal intern Chandra Levy.

The search, done with the congressman's consent and in his presence, began just before midnight Tuesday and concluded shortly before 3 a.m. Wednesday.

Several items, which police would not describe, were to be sent to the FBI crime lab in Virginia, said Sgt. Joe Gentile, a Washington police spokesperson.

Police Chief Charles Ramsey said he did not know whether the evidence police took from Condit's apartment contained anything that might help them figure out what happened to Levy, who has not been seen since April 30.

Levy, 24, of Modesto, California, was an intern at the federal Bureau of Prisons. Police searched her apartment and found nothing missing but her keys.

Condit, 53 and married, told police last week that he had an affair with Levy, according to a source familiar with the investigation. His staff had claimed for weeks that they were just good friends.

The disappearance is being treated as a missing-person case and police have said repeatedly that Condit is not a suspect.

The Washington Post, meanwhile, reported Thursday that FBI agents have interviewed a Pentecostal minister who described an affair between his then-18-year-old daughter and Condit.

The minister, Otis Thomas, was quoted by the Post as saying that Condit had told his daughter never to speak of the relationship.

Thomas said his daughter is afraid to talk with the FBI and has gone into hiding. Thomas, whose church is in Modesto, did gardening work at the Levy home in Modesto, the Post said.

Thomas told the Post that his daughter met Condit at a political rally and ended the relationship about seven years ago.

Marina Eis, a spokesperson for Condit, said the Post

report was "discountable." Asked if she was denying the congressman had an affair with the woman, Eis said, "We're not going to get in the territory of accounting for each and every one of the tabloid cases that are presented."

Telephone messages left with spokespersons for the Levys late Wednesday were not immediately returned. Attempts to reach Thomas were unsuccessful.

While police looked for new information, the FBI and the US attorney's office again questioned flight attendant Anne Marie Smith. She has contended Condit asked her to sign a statement denying a 10-month affair she says they had.

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US reveals
it foiled 130
terrorist plots

WASHINGTON—US law enforcement agencies have thwarted 130 terrorist plots targeting the United States over the past two decades, Attorney General John Ashcroft disclosed Wednesday.

But he warned the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other institutions charged with combating terrorism "will not always succeed."

The disclosure follows revelations that Algerian national Ahmed Ressam, arrested in Washington state in late 1999 with bomb-making material and convicted of terrorist conspiracy last April, planned to bomb Los Angeles International Airport.

Addressing the National Governors Association, which wrapped up a counter terrorism summit here Wednesday, Ashcroft did not mention any specific terrorist conspiracies other than Ressam's.

But he said that between 1980 and 1999, the FBI also recorded 327 incidents or situations of suspected terrorism in the United States.

"It is no exaggeration to say that, had the law enforcement efforts that led to the prevention of these acts not been successful, the cumulative death toll would have been substantial," he said.

Winter olympics

The attorney general noted he had made it a "priority" for US law enforcement to ensure the security of the 2002 winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, which will attract 3,500 athletes and hundreds of thousands of guests.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure that people from all over the world can come to the games and bring their families and enjoy the excitement of world-class athletic competition while feeling safe and secure," he said.

The assurances came as US lawmakers moved to counter what they see as a growing terrorist threat to the country.

The Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a bill providing nearly \$5 million for a counter-terrorism fund managed by the Justice Department.

Blow warfare

On the same day, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson appointed a special coordinator to handle preparations for a possible biological weapons attack on US soil.

Scott Lillbridge, a physician from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will be in charge of detecting such an attack, identifying the biological agent and providing drugs and other medical supplies to the victims.

"I can think of no one better qualified for this critical responsibility than Dr Lillbridge," said Thompson. "He will provide leadership to ensure we can respond swiftly and decisively should some vicious act of bioterrorism be inflicted upon the American people." AFP

Nasa: Far
planets
have water

WASHINGTON—Distant planetary systems, where comets and asteroids swirl around blazing stars, may contain water, an essential ingredient of life, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

But some scientists believe a Nasa space probe that delivered the news may also have caught a glimpse of a cataclysmic demise awaiting Earth and other planets of the solar system billions of years from now.

Evidence of water vapors were reported by the Submillimeter Wave Astronomy Satellite, a small radio observatory launched by Nasa in late 1998, as it focused on a giant star designated by astronomers as IRC+102.6 located 500 lightyears from Earth in the direction of the constellation Leo.

"What makes the results we are reporting today (Wednesday) so unusual is that we have found a cloud of water vapor around a star where we would not ordinarily have expected to find water," said Gary Melnick of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that manages the mission.

Astronomers have concluded that the vapors are rising from icy comets under the heat radiated by the star, which is much hotter than the Sun, according to Nasa.

The comet circling IRC+10216 is similar to the original mass of the so-called Kuiper Belt, a collection of comets that is orbiting the Sun beyond the orbit of Neptune, according to the report. AFP

It's all in here.



Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Pangasinan floods blamed on logging

Cancer victim seeks help

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT A former base worker has appealed for help so he can continue undergoing treatment for cancer, believed to have been caused by toxic waste contamination.

Cirinco Manzano, 48, worked as a utility man at the Naval Magazine (NavMag) of the former US naval base here. After the pull out of US troops, he became a volunteer of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and was assigned to help in cleaning the area.

The Woodward Clyde environmental baseline survey on Subic Bay Freeport recommended the NavMag cleanup before any construction, earth-moving operation or development is undertaken in the area. The area, however, is already being used for tourism and industrial purposes.

Manzano is a half-Aeta who resides in the human resettlement in Olongapo City. He and his wife Estrella, a third generation Aeta, recalled working as volunteers and, while cleaning up the dump, they were exposed to hazardous waste such as asbestos without protective gear.

They saw the bunkers, which were used for storing bullets, weapons and munitions, were rented out as convents and were used as a refuge of volunteers during heavy rains. Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MANUEL, Pangasinan—Residents in two villages here are blaming indiscriminate logging for their misery after their houses were swamped by Ibaraki floods last week.

Major sections of the Lapalo and Sto. Domingo villages here are still flooded. The floods carried with it more silt than residents suspect come from the denuded mountains of the upstream Cordillera.

Mayor Salvador Perez said the Toboy River, which flows from the Buet River in Benguet, and its tributaries traverse the villages.

The Department of Public Works and Highways earlier planned to build a dike along the river but for some reason, the project did not push through.

But a dike could have been of little help to the residents, who say the Ibaraki flood destroyed concrete fences, smashed houses and buried them in mud.

"Aside from a dike, the Toboy River badly needs dredging because it is already heavily silted," Perez said.

But what Perez did not mention was how indiscriminate logging in the Cordillera largely contributed to the river's siltation, a problem that appeared when typhoon "Feria" came.

Gint Guang, a Sto. Domingo resident, shivered as she recited the onslaught of the flood. "It was horrible. The water came swiftly and we didn't have time to move our belongings," she said.

She said this was the first time their village was affected by a Ibaraki flood in 60 years. "Floods did occur in the past years, but this was the first time that the flood carried sticky mud," she said.

But Sto. Domingo residents are luckier than those

of Lapalo village where many houses were destroyed by strong winds and floods spawned by Feria.

Guang said it was only minutes when the two villages were submerged under 4 feet of floodwater.

"Residents were caught off-guard," she added.

The Sto. Domingo elementary school and barangay high school buildings were also submerged in mud. There are still no classes in both schools.

The call for a total ban on commercial logging has failed to take off.

Several attempts to legislate a ban on commercial logging were blocked by lawmakers who argued that a total ban on logging was not the answer to the country's disappearing forests.

The senator now Environment Secretary Heber Alvarez was among those leading the opposition to a total commercial logging ban.

Alvarez said he preferred what he called a sustainable forest management to a total ban on logging.

Alvarez succeeded in blocking but failed to pass a bill for a total ban on commercial logging.

Merendo said under a selective ban on logging, loggers could still continue cutting trees in areas where the ban is in effect and claim that these logs come from areas where there is no logging ban.

The call for a total ban on logging remained unheeded even after a killer flood killed thousands of people in Ormoc City.

The flood was believed to have been aggravated by the denudation of forests around Ormoc. Yolanda Fueras, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Maguindanao House seats vacant

COTABATO CITY—Maguindanao has no representatives in Congress because of a still unresolved election controversy pending at the Commission on Elections.

Comelec Commissioner Lazaro Tancangco said despite the June 30 nationwide oath-taking rites of winning candidates in the May 24 elections, there are still provinces in the country like Maguindanao, whose seats in the House of Representatives remain vacant.

Tancangco said no elected candidate can assume office unless he is proclaimed winner by the board of canvassers and the proclamation was backed by certificates of proclamation and canvass as proofs.

A candidate may assume office only after taking his oath of office before a member of the judiciary, said Tancangco.

In the case of Maguindanao, she said, there were election protests from contending parties that made it impossible to officially elect the results.

In the first district, the Comelec has yet to de-

cide who won between reelectionist Rep. Dadiangas and Arnel Datucon, and between former Comelec Commissioner Japal Guan and former Rep. Guttiard Matulam for the second district.

Tancangco considered Maguindanao as one of the problem areas during the May elections because even election results in the gubernatorial race have yet to be resolved by the Comelec and the Supreme Court.

Reelectionist Gov. Zacaria Cancaao was contesting Anual Ampatuan's proclamation by the provincial board of canvassers due to fraud and terrorism.

Tancangco, however, explained that all proclaimed winners declared by the board of canvassers are authorized to assume to their respective offices.

The proclamation of the winning candidates will stay until such time that it will be revoked by the Comelec, Tancangco said. Charlie C. Sefase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

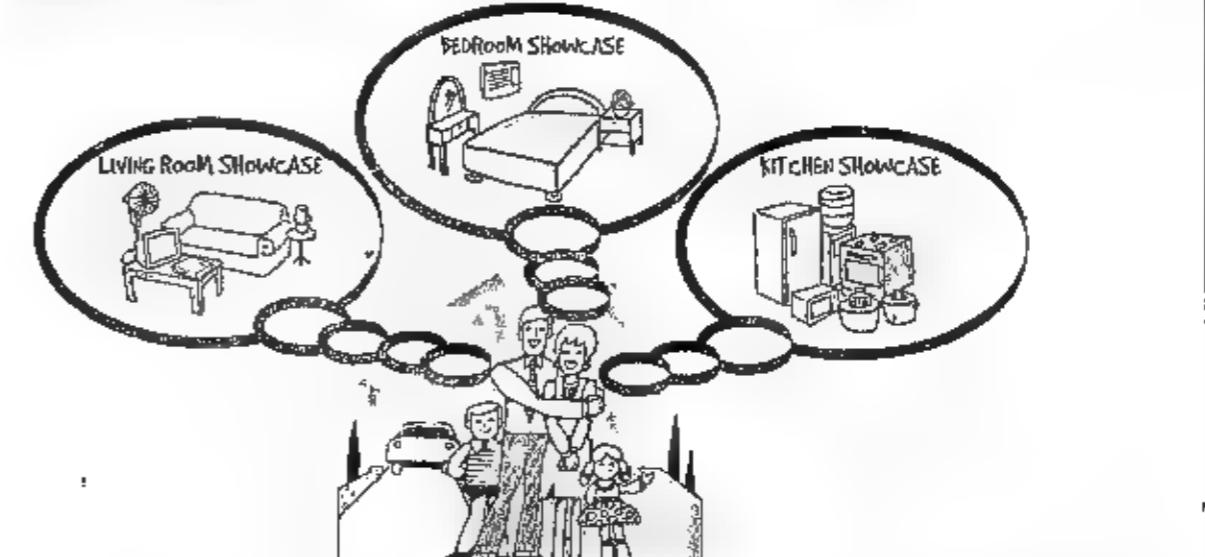
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Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE LANDMARK

Most Negros rape victims children

BY ROMY G. AMARADO
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Most of the rape victims in Negros Oriental in the last 18 months are children, according to records of the police Women and Children's Concerned Desk (WCCD).

The records said 145 rape cases were reported from January last year to June this year. Of the number, 122 involved children, the same records showed.

There were 51 rape cases recorded by the WCC. Children were the victims in 42 of these cases.

About half of the victims were children aged 12 years old and below and the other half were 15 to 17 years old.

The youngest of these victims was a four-year-old girl who was raped by his uncle in Dumaguete City.

Police recorded 94 rape cases last year. Children were the victims in 70 of these cases.

MNLF rejects autonomy

COTABATO CITY—The Nur Misuari-led Moro National Liberation Front has rejected the new Muslim Autonomy Act (RA 9140) that calls for the separate holding of a plebiscite and regional elections this year.

"The passage of the law is a violation of the 1996 peace agreement," Misuari said Tuesday while attending a two-day MNLF leadership meeting in Zamboanga City.

RA 9140 is the final version of the new autonomy act that seeks to amend RA 6734, the law that created the four-province Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Clarita Cesar, Commission on Elections director for Central Mindanao, said RA 9140, signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo on June 22, calls for the holding of a plebiscite on Aug. 14 and the election of ARMM officials on Nov. 26.

"The calendar of activities will have to be published in local newspapers with general circulation in the ARMM," Cesar said.

But Misuari said holding these political exercises this year would mean "disregarding all the resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)."

The 56-member OIC, in its latest resolutions, appealed to the Philippine government "not to take any unilateral measures or conduct unilaterally a plebiscite in the ARMM," Misuari said.

Misuari said the enactment of the new autonomy law was a "blatant disrespect" of the OIC resolutions.

Misuari's three-year term as ARMM governor should have ended in 1999 but he was allowed to continue in office in a holdover capacity following the failure of Congress to enact on time a law that would amend the one that created the ARMM and expand the autonomous region.

The MNLF's rejection of the new autonomy law in Mindanao would mean another extension of Misuari's tenure as governor and chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD).

Misuari is also special envoy to the OIC.

Misuari said he believes that any law that follows the 1996 peace pact signed between the government and the MNLF should have the approval of the other signatories of the peace agreement.

"The MNLF sticks to the world view that the enhancement of the peace process must be done through and with the participation of the government, MNLF and OIC," Misuari said.

Charlie C. Seiase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Aetas demand troop pullout

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Aetas have banded the provincial capitol here since last week, asking officials to rid their village of Army soldiers and to help solve the disappearance of two tribal leaders.

In batches, they trickled here from their mountain abode in Barangay Nabuklod in Floridablanca town to also complain of "human rights violations as a result of intensified militarization" by the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion.

The village lies on the western boundary of Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales.

In separate meetings with Gov. Manuel Lapid, Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo, Pampanga Rep. Zenaida Ducus and Provincial Administrator Benjie Guapo, Nabuklod Aetas claimed that government troopers have disrupted their lives, restricted their movements and brought them fear.

"Last June was worse," Ric Guiao, spokesperson of the Central Luzon Aeta Association, said in Kapampangan.

According to the CLAA report, Army soldiers have conducted a census of the Nabuklod population from June 4 to 5, held illegal searches in the homes of four Aeta leaders on June 18 and placed residents under surveillance.

Army soldiers allegedly ridiculed and mistreated Aeta women, one of whom was asked to give sexual services for P2,000, the report said.

Soldiers also threatened the lives of the Aetas since their nightly drinking binges always ended up in shooting sprees, the report said.

It added that the Army has either sought the surrender of Aeta leaders or placed them in its order of battle or a list of targets for execution.

The "targets" reportedly included Nabuklod barangay captain Angel Binuruan and barangay council man Nelson Malari who have been missing for the last two weeks, it was learned.

Capt. Arnold Diaz, the 24th IB's civil military operations officer, declined to comment on the allegations of the CLAA and Nabuklod Aetas.

Dizon, in a text message, advised the INQUIRER to wait for the result of a fact-finding mission that councilors in Floridablanca ordered on Monday.

But local reports said Dizon had blamed the CLAA for the disappearance of Binuruan and Malari, saying "left-leaning" men took these men in their custody.

Binuruan and Malari are from the same group that organized an insurance program in Nabuklod since 1998 to regain control of a hill that was a common route for New People's Army rebels operating in the highland areas of the three adjacent provinces. Army officials earlier said.

Tonette Ong, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Estradas may lose Cuevas as lawyer

(From page A1)

The law's pertinent provision reads: "It is a condition of the pension . . . that no retiring justice during the time that he is receiving said pension shall appear as counsel before any court in any civil case wherein the government . . . is the adverse party, or in any criminal case wherein an officer or employee of the government is accused of an offense committed in relation to his office, or collect any fee for his appearance in any administrative proceeding."

"It is very clear that a former justice of the Supreme Court cannot appear as counsel for former President Estrada and (former San Juan Mayor) Jinggoy Estrada. Unless, of course, (he) claims that (he does) not receive any pension from the government," Perez said.

Cuevas retired as a justice of the appellate court before being appointed to the Supreme Court. He submitted a courtesy resignation as a high court justice when Corazon Aquino was installed as President in February 1986.

A though it is not clear whether

Cuevas receives a pension from his Supreme Court stint, DOJ sources say it is possible that Cuevas gets a pension of around P50,000 a month as a retired Court of Appeals justice.

Surprised but unsure

Perez said the government would have to determine first whether Cuevas is indeed receiving a state pension before government prosecutors take any legal action objecting to the apparent violation of the conditions of such a pension.

But "if he is not receiving a pension, then I don't see any reason why he cannot continue appearing for former President Estrada," Perez told a press conference yesterday afternoon.

He admitted that he and other prosecutors present in Estrada's arraignment for plunder last Tuesday were surprised when Cuevas formally entered his appearance as the ex-president's defense lawyer.

"But at that time, we were all unsure about the prohibition so nobody brought it up during the arraignment," Perez said.

Cuevas told reporters after his first appearance as Estrada's lawyer that he would not charge Estrada for

his legal services, adding that any compensation would depend on the ex-President's "magnanimity."

What about Narvaza?

Former Chief Justice Andres Narvaza also sits among the lawyers defending Estrada during Sandiganbayan hearings.

Perez noted, however, that Narvaza has not entered a formal appearance as defense counsel.

"I'm sure former Chief Justice Narvaza is receiving a pension from the government and therefore is clearly disqualified from appearing as (Estrada's) counsel," Perez said.

He added, "In fairness to the former chief justice, he has not formally entered his appearance in the case and therefore the disqualification cannot apply to him since he is not really appearing as counsel."

The secretary added that Narvaza's appearance as one of Estrada's lawyers in his impeachment trial "was not questioned because (it) was not a criminal case against an official of the government. It was a different proceeding."

New bid for house arrest

The Estradas' lawyers launched

yet another bid for house arrest yesterday, asking the Sandiganbayan to permit father and son to "go home" to their Polk Street mansion in San Juan "to prepare for (the) pre-trial and trial" of a separate perjury case.

This, as Jinggoy Estrada's doctor, who has just concluded tests on the former mayor's heart condition, said that the examination showed that Jinggoy "suffered a heart attack three months ago" and needed more medical tests.

In an interview over GMA-7, Dr Roberto Anastacio of the Makati Medical Center said Jinggoy would have to stay longer in the hospital, but ruled out the need for treatment abroad.

He said that Jinggoy "did not feel" the cardiac arrest that left his heart "injured."

The defense lawyers asked the Sandiganbayan's first division to grant detention leave to their clients ahead of the pre-trial of the perjury case, scheduled for Aug. 2.

"We are racing to go as far as the scheduled pre-trial is concerned and would like to prepare for it as well as we can, a sentiment we hope the

prosecution shares," lawyers led by former senator Rene Saguisag said in their motion.

"Someone elected by millions in a democracy deserves private time to prepare for his defense in his home. His son was also elected by our people. Their lives, honor, liberty, their everything, are at stake," the five-page motion said.

Loi claims persecution

Following reports that she may still be arrested and prosecuted on graft charges, Sen. Loi Estrada accused the government of persecuting her family.

"She suspects that they want to throw the whole Estrada family in jail," said her chief of staff and legal counsel Rufus Rodriguez.

He said such an arrest would be "a pure form of persecution against her for being a spouse of President Erap Estrada and for no other reason."

Rodriguez, a former immigration chief, said an arrest would be a "clear case of harassment to prevent her from effectively performing her duties as opposition senator at the outset of the Senate sessions," which

will open on July 23.

The former first lady's camp was reacting to reports quoting Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. as saying that government would still have to submit evidence against Senator Estrada since the Sandiganbayan rejected the Ombudsman's motion to withdraw the graft case against her.

Ombudsman Amado Duestro has filed a motion for reconsideration that is pending in court.

The senator is accused of receiving a portion of P130 million worth of tobacco excise taxes allegedly given to her husband while he was President.

Yesterday, the Sandiganbayan's third division allowed the Ombudsman to withdraw still another case against Jinggoy Estrada charging him with violating the Code of Conduct and Ethics Standards for Public Officers.

The case is one of five criminal cases the Ombudsman wants withdrawn as part of the prosecution's strategy to strengthen the plunder case. With reports from Armand Nocum and Volt Contreras

US Pacific Fleet commander in Manila; Basilan on agenda

(From page A1)

Agence France Presse quoted Reyes as telling reporters after the meeting that he and Blair "briefly talked about the Basilan hostage crisis."

Reyes stressed that Blair did not offer US military assistance to pursue the Abu Sayyaf.

At yesterday's meeting, Blair was accompanied by his staff - Ambassador Charles Twining, foreign policy adviser; Rear Adm. Steven Smith, and Philip Klapuk, Philippine Desk officer of the Pacific Command.

Col. Russell Lewey and political counselor Steve Zate, representatives of the US Embassy in Manila, were also present.

Stepped-up security

The Philippines has stepped up security in all airports and around the US and Israeli embassies following reports that a "Lebanese terrorist" was on his way to carry out attacks. Agence France Presse quoted officials as saying yesterday.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, said the government had received information that a man working for Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden was planning to enter Manila.

"Yes, there has been such a report," Tiglao told reporters, but declined to name the source of the information.

He said Manila had ordered "heightened security" around the embassies.

Press reports quoting immigration sources had identified the alleged terrorist as Lebanese Ahmad Yasser Ismail.

The reports said Ismail planned to enter the Philippines and meet his contacts to map out the attack on the US and Israeli embassies.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele, aviation security group commander, said his office was in contact with the US Federal Aviation Administration and the American intelligence community.

He said security in Philippine airports had been reinforced against the possibility of hijacking and other types of terrorism on the civil aviation industry.

Philippine immigration officials were ordered to watch out for other organized groups, includ-

ing those from Japan, Ele said.

"We are assuring our citizens that our airports nationwide, whether domestic or international, are safe from any terrorist attack from within or from outside," he said over ABS-CBN television.

Bin Laden has been accused of masterminding twin bomb attacks on US embassies in Africa that killed 213 in 1998.

Technical assistance

Last month, Malacanang admitted that the US government had been providing "technical assistance" to help resolve the hostage crisis that began with the May 27 abduction of an original group of 17 Filipinos and three Americans from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

It is believed that this assistance involves sophisticated surveillance equipment designed to monitor and trace the location of radio and phone transmissions by enemy forces.

The Abu Sayyaf is known to be using satellite phones.

A team of experts from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation has set up shop in Zamboanga City to "coordinate" with Philippine military and police officers in charge of the hostage crisis.

According to a number of freed hostages, the Burnhams, both missionaries, are alive and well.

The Abu Sayyaf had earlier announced the beheading of the third American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, but his body has not been found.

Observers said Blair's visit could indicate an imminent "decisive engagement" between government forces and the Abu Sayyaf.

They pointed out that the government launched a major offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu to end last year's Sipadan hostage crisis on the day then US Defense Secretary William Cohen left Manila after a two-day visit on Sept. 14-16, 2000.

Cohen's visit coincided with the last phase of a joint training course involving Filipino and American special military forces in Nueva Ecija.

Blair arrived a few days later on Sept. 24-26 for the joint military exercises along the western coastal areas of Luzon. With reports from AFP

Jimenez wails: Why me?

(From page A1)

rocket scientist to know that things are now convoluted in this country. What is wrong is now right and what is right is now wrong," Jimenez told reporters at a luncheon yesterday.

"Like in Mindanao, for example. Why is the government spending millions on freeing the hostages (of the Abu Sayyaf) when 75 million Filipinos are (held) hostage by poverty?" he asked.

He was reacting to a petition filed by the Department of Justice with the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking the cancellation of his P1-million bail bond and the nullification of a Manila judge's order granting him temporary liberty.

The DOJ filed the petition on behalf of the United States government.

Jimenez is wanted by the state of Florida for conspiracy to defraud the US government, tax evasion, wire fraud and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said the government should work hard to get Jimenez extradited so that the United States could help it bring Charlie "Arong" Ang, a crony of former President Joseph Estrada, back to the country to face criminal charges.

Ang is Estrada's co-accused in a plunder case. Plunder is a non-bailable offense and is punishable by death.

"If we do not fulfill our end of the deal regarding Mark Jimenez, you do not expect a favorable treatment on the other side of the fence," Drilon told Senate reporters.

There are mutual obligations to be fulfilled by contracting parties that enter into an extradition treaty, according to Drilon.

Drilon, a former justice secretary, said he was a signatory to the extradition treaty signed by the Philippines and US governments in 1993.

Jimenez is peeved that the INQUIRER reported that the DOJ filed the petition with the Supreme Court on behalf of the US government.

"Why are you saying that the US government is behind the request, when there is no indication of such in the (DOJ) petition?" Jimenez asked this reporter.

"There were no US documents cited in the petition. Of course, you have a deadline to fulfill but shouldn't you bother to check whether this is re-

ally true? What if I say I am the son of Jesus Christ, will you write it down, too?" he said.

Jimenez said he was prepared to "exhaust all legal remedies" to prevent his return to the United States.

So far, Jimenez has gained points against his enemies with Manila Judge Guillermo Purgan's decision on July 4 granting him provisional liberty in exchange for a P1-million bail bond.

Purgan has been tasked with hearing Jimenez's bail motion before his possible arrest for his extradition.

Asked about his plans if the bail court orders that he be arrested, Jimenez said he was prepared to take the case to the Supreme Court.

"I'm a believer in due process. I believe in the Supreme Court being the highest court. I will not preempt the law," he said.

"My arrest and extradition will not be my decision, also not your decision but theirs (referring to the Supreme Court justices). They're just dispensing the law and I'm just defending myself," Jimenez said.

He resents an INQUIRER report in November 1998 describing him as a fugitive from American justice.

"It was only in April 1999 when the state of Florida issued the warrant of arrest against me. Earlier than that I was already being called a fugitive," he complained.

"A fugitive is one who runs away, I ran for Congress," he said.

Jimenez is now preparing for his new job as representative of the sixth district of Manila.

For starters, he plans to file a bill creating a single incentive house for investors. Other measures still in the works will focus on the economy and employment creation.

Jimenez indicated his preference for Pungasian Rep. Jose de Venecia as the next Speaker.

"He has experience and I believe experience is one of the best assets of a leader," Jimenez said.

On July 23, he plans to attend the first State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the opening of the 12th Congress.

Trouble is, Jimenez fears that some parties are not keen on letting him be seen at the House of Representatives when the President delivers his speech.

He believes this is the reason some people are working for his extradition to the United States.

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Military questions MNLF: Whose side are you on?

(From page A1)

Mabanta said members of the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion under a certain 1st Lt. Luntok engaged Abu Sayyaf men for about an hour starting 10:50 a.m.

He said that one soldier was wounded and that the troops recovered rounds of ammunition for 57 mm recoilless rifles and 60 mm mortars.

Another encounter occurred at 12:10 p.m. at Barangay Buligan, but with no casualties on either side.

In the third encounter at 5:30 p.m. in Barangay Bohe Elba, members of the 7th Scout Ranger Company under 1st Lieutenant Cobunoc clashed with about 50 Abu Sayyaf men dressed in black fatigues.

Three soldiers were wounded and according to Gepilano, the bodies of two suspected bandits were recovered.

Mabanta said the series of encounters was "a good thing" as it showed that "our forces are making contact."

"This means that our intelligence is getting better," he added.

No man's land

Lantawan Mayor Tuhoro Ismael said some 500 families had fled their homes and sought shelter in Barangays Arong-Along and Taran.

Barangay Kumalarang, a known exit point of the Abu Sayyaf from Isabela and entry point to Lantawan, has also been declared a no-man's land.

Former Provincial Jail Officer Iono Ordóñez said

no one could be seen there at night except for military and militia men on patrol.

He said at least 300 families in Kumalarang fled to Barangays Panigayan and Sumagdang and to Isabela after Abu Sayyaf commander Hamsaraji Sali alias Jose advised residents to abandon their homes to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Ordóñez quoted the Abu Sayyaf as saying that it would attack Kumalarang because many soldiers were based there.

But Capt. Ariel Bautista, commander of the 24th Special Forces Company, told the INQUIRER Kumalarang was peaceful.

"As long as we're here, the people are safe. We will give them protection as long as they want," he said.

Under siege

In Cotabato City, MNLF commanders complained to MNLF char Nur Misuari that their farm settlements in Basilan had been under siege by government troops.

Bashir Jaitani told Misuari at the Bangsamoro Armed Forces command conference in Zamboanga City that the military offensives in MNLF settlement areas in the past days had led them to doubt the government's sincerity to pursue the 1996 peace accord.

He also cited an incident in Masola town last month, when soldiers allegedly harassed an MNLF camp, leaving seven civilians dead.

Reacting to the Jaitani report, Misuari, who is also governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the government appeared to be disregarding the peace agreement.

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He said that while the MNLF had been trying to abide by the peace agreement, "I think there are people who are out to destroy (it)."

He called for an immediate end to the military offensives to avert another war with the MNLF.

Petition

In General Santos City, more than 40 members of the local media have signed a petition demanding the immediate relief of Col. Pedro Magsino, commanding officer of the 601st Army Brigade based in Malungon, Sarangani province.

Magsino and the journalists are at loggerheads because he whisked off the captured Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzim Sandubillo alias Commander Global to Manila on Monday without allowing for interviews or photo opportunities.

Global, the chief of staff of the Sulu-based faction of the Abu Sayyaf, and his three aides were arrested Sunday by a team composed of agents of the police, military and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency in Barangay Calumpang in the city.

In the petition, the journalists said Magsino's act was motivated by a desire to grab credit for the capture of Global and his aides.

They said they would withdraw support from the Army unless Magsino was relieved of his post, which he assumed in March. With reports from Carlo Pablo in Manila; Aquiles Z. Zenio and Charlie C. Señáez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Misuari warns gov't of 'another Frankenstein'

COTABATO CITY—Nur Misuari has expressed fears that the government's reported move to reunite renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front would create "another Frankenstein."

Musuari, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and chair of a divided MNLF, issued the statement in reaction to reports that the 15-member MNLF executive council succeeded in bringing about an MNLF-MILF merger at a joint meeting held here on July 9.

"This will not add anything to our cause, now that they are unified. I hope they will not become as (Senate President) Aquilino Pimentel said, another Frankenstein," he said.

Misuari was referring to intelligence reports indicating that the ban-

dit group Abu Sayyaf was a creation of the previous administration.

"All (monsters) that the state has organized eventually turned its ire on the government after benefiting from (it)," Misuari said.

Muslimin Señáez, Cotabato City mayor and member of the 15-member executive council, confirmed he MNLF-MILF merger and said it was now stronger than the Misuari-led MNLF.

But Misuari denied this, saying many of the MNLF state revolutionary committee chairs had allied with him.

He warned confused MNLF members that "those who are mislead will be written in the blackest pages of our history because what they do amounts to betrayal of our cause, our organization and our people," Charlie C. Señáez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Palace still bullish despite weakening peso

(From page A1)

had People Power II that toppled Estrada.

Traders said the Bangko Sentral's intervention in the afternoon enabled the peso to close by almost eight centavos more than Wednesday's close.

Buenaventura hinted yesterday morning that the Bangko Sentral would intervene if necessary. "Some people will regret it, buying at a high level," he said.

Tax reform

On tax reform, Tiglao said there was a consensus in the Cabinet that taxes on people living on fixed incomes had to be lowered.

To offset the loss of revenue, the government would try to prevent individuals and small businesses from slipping through the tax net.

"A lot of effort in the tax system would have to be directed towards the underground economy . . . to sectors where tax collection has been quite weak," Tiglao said.

Camacho pointed out that the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis and the spate of kidnappings had adversely affected the economy.

The President had earlier created a National Anti-Crime Council and revamped the Philippine National Police to effectively counter heinous crimes.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the peso's slide to profit taking by banks, which

had a consensus in the Cabinet that taxes on people living on fixed incomes had to be lowered.

He said the kidnappings slowed the flow of portfolio and direct investments into the country and further weakened the peso.

From its Wednesday's close of \$3.065, the peso yesterday closed at \$3.08 to the dollar.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Bangko Sentral did not intervene in the foreign exchange market even after the peso fell to a five-and-a-half month low.

Buenaventura attributed the peso's slide to profit taking by banks, which

"took advantage of nice levels to sell" dollars.

But traders said the Bangko Sentral aggressively sold dollars, accounting for a third of the \$119 mln on traded at the Philippine Dealing System.

"We are approximating levels during the time of President Joseph Estrada. It's as if Erap (Estrada's nickname) never left," said a trader from a local bank.

On Jan. 17, a day after the Senate impeachment court voted not to open the second envelope related to the bank account of Jose Velarde, which is believed to be an alias of Estrada, the peso closed at P52.78 to \$1.

On Jan. 18, the peso closed at a record low of P54.79. The following day, it dropped in a day low of P55.75 but bounced back to close at P47.50 after the military threw their support be-

hind People Power II that toppled Estrada.

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The country's inefficient tax system and poor revenue collection have been blamed for the rising budget deficit.

Shil Camacho said the government was prepared to bring down the corporate income tax from the current 32 percent to ease the burden on businesses.

The country's inefficient tax system and poor revenue collection have been blamed for the rising budget deficit.

Shil Camacho said the economy could start recovering by the first quarter of next year, the period analysts expect the US economy to start bouncing back.

"I think we would have a real recovery by the first quarter of next year and we would see stronger growth, stronger exports and eventually, a stronger peso," he said. Reports from Reuters and Clarissa Batino

Kin of poor hostages remind GMA: Please, don't forget us

LAMITAN, Basilan—As soon as Virginia Rosadeno and Tarcila Malonzo were introduced, they embraced and wept in each other's arms.

"It's like they've known each other for so long and they were comforting each other," said United Methodist Church Pastor Randy Rosadeno, who accompanied his mother Virginia to the Malonzo house here.

The two women are the mothers of Abu Sayyaf hostages Fe Rosadeno and Reina Malonzo.

Virginia said she decided to leave her ailing husband in Brooks, Palawan, to oversee the negotiations

for Fe's release.

She arrived here with her son on July 9 to meet with relatives of the other kidnap victims.

"The hostages' families appear to have been forgotten. In some way, I want to show the others that I am one of them," Virginia said.

She said she felt Tarcila's suffering. "We both have a daughter in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf," she said. "Our President also has a daughter. I hope she understands our situation, and I hope she finds a way to have our children released safely."

Tarcila aired an appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying in between sobs: "Madame President, you told me

you would help us when you visited Lamitan (on June 18). We are still hanging on to your promise. Up to now we have not received even a letter from you."

She also begged the Abu Sayyaf to release their children and said their families could not afford to pay ransom.

Tarcila's husband Raul works in a coconut plantation. Virginia said she and her family sold their small fishing boat and two hogs to raise the P20,000 ransom demand for Fe's release.

Her son said the sale amounted to only P14,000, so they borrowed the rest.

The Rosadenos said they had tried to seek help from Malacatang but members of the Presidential Security Group

sent them away.

Officials of the United Methodist Church shouldered the Rosadenos' plane fare.

Tarcila said her family was to have taken part in a dialogue during the President's visit to Lamitan.

"But they did not let us join the conference, so when I had the chance, I joined with the crowd at the hospital to get near the President," she said.

When Ms Macapagal flew to Puerto Princesa City on the same day, Virginia said, "no one let me in at the meeting even when I shouted and pleaded." Julie Alipela-Intos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PPC solons on brink of breakup

(From page A1)

A meeting will be held today between the two blocs to forge what the blocs called a "formidable" group in the Senate leadership race.

The two other contenders within the PPC are Drilon and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Impasse

"I am not prepared to enter into that power sharing scheme," said Drilon who's widely believed to be President Macapagal-Arroyo's choice for the top Senate post.

"I would like to report that there is an impasse in the discussion in the concept of term sharing. This morning's meeting did not produce any substantial agreement," Drilon said in a news briefing after the meeting with Cayetano at the Westin Ph.ippines Plaza. Sen. Juan Flavie acted as "honest broker."

Asked whether he was indeed the President's choice, Drilon said he would neither confirm nor deny the story first reported in the INQUIRER.

Flavie assured that the PPC will continue to have the majority in the Senate but admitted it was "a fragmented majority" with its members supporting four senators.

Informed sources told the INQUIRER yesterday that after the failure of the Drilon-Cayetano talks, talks will resume between the blocs of senators belonging to the Lakas-NUCD party and that of former congressmen elected to the Sen-

ate who ran on the PPC slate.

Senators belonging to Lakas are Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Florin and Robert Barber. The so-called "newcomer bloc" are made up of Senators Arroyo, Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan.

The alliance of the two blocs would make them a group of eight. A source inside one of the blocs told the INQUIRER that the group plans to reach out to two senators who ran under the PPC banner but are considered to be "floating"—Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Serge Osmeña.

Today's meeting is a prelude to more meetings aimed at ironing out further any remaining kinks in the resolution of the Senate leadership race," the source said referring to the Cayetano-Arroyo blocs.

The sources said that talks between the two blocs started even before President Macapagal met last July 1 with the PPC senators contending for the Senate presidency and prohibited them from reaching out or crossing to the opposition whose lone candidate is Sen. Edgardo Angara.

The President, they said, wanted the Senate leadership issue settled within the 12 PPC senators.

But they said the President violated her own prohibition when she endorsed Drilon to the Senate top post.

The sources said Drilon, probably aware of the "potential" of the alliance of the Cayetano and Arroyo blocs in the Senate presidency race, went to the President last July 8 to seek her endorsement.

In that meeting held in Malacatang, Drilon reportedly "poured his heart out to the President" and told her that he, among the contenders, could reach out to the Angara camp if he (Drilon) were Senate president.

The source also said that the Arroyo group had been the "most courted" in

the past two weeks because apart from making up one-third of the 12 PPC senators, they are solid as a group.

The sources confirmed that the President called some PPC senators the next day, including Cayetano, to inform them of her preference for Drilon.

"(The PPC senators) were apprehensive that what happened in the House would also happen in the Senate," the sources said, referring to the alliance that was formed between Lakas and the opposition National People's Coalition in supporting the bid of Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia.

The Lakas-NPC alliance threatens to cause the breakup of the administration coalition in the House.

LP-LDP alliance

With a never-say-die spirit, 60 congressmen, mostly belonging to Abad's Liberal Party and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, and including some independents, committed to stop De Venecia's sure-footed march to the podium of the Speaker.

In a meeting at the Manila Golf Club in Forbes Park, Makati, the presence of Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar (Independent), wife of former Speaker and now Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., came as a surprise.

She vowed to stick it out with Abad "till the end," even if she noted that "many of you will be surprised why I am here."

"The people with this group have helped Mañay a lot," Ms Villar said when called up to speak.

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Racist message written in victims' blood

(From page A1)

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Philippine Consul General Libran Cobactulan said he personally visited the house yesterday but was barred from entering while investigators searched for evidence.

Cobactulan said Task Force Towns, composed of 20 homicide detectives, "have theories but these are all speculations for now."

The investigators are looking at the client list of Mr. Gonzales' legal firm for any possible "revenge killing" angle, the Australian newspaper Daily Telegraph reported. The police have not ruled out either that the triple homicide was a consequence of a botched robbery or something more personal.

Up to 40 police officers reportedly searched the Gonzaleses' home, the gardens, roofs and drains of nearby houses yesterday.

The bodies have been brought to a local morgue for autopsies, Cobactulan said, adding that forensic findings would not be available for a week.

More than one killer?

The family, which lived in the leafy middle-class suburb of North Ryde, was stabbed to death in a ferocious attack described by police as an "outrage."

The couple's 20-year-old son, Sef, a law student, discovered the bodies when he returned home in the early hours of Wednesday after a night out with friends.

The Sydney Morning Herald said detectives believed mother and daughter were already dead when Gonzales returned home and was also brutally murdered.

According to the report, the investigators think that Lowiva and Clodine were killed some time in the late afternoon after returning from a lunch in a restaurant with Teddy.

Police believe that between the time that Teddy returned home and Sef found the victims Wednesday night, more than one killer entered the home, the Herald Sun reported.

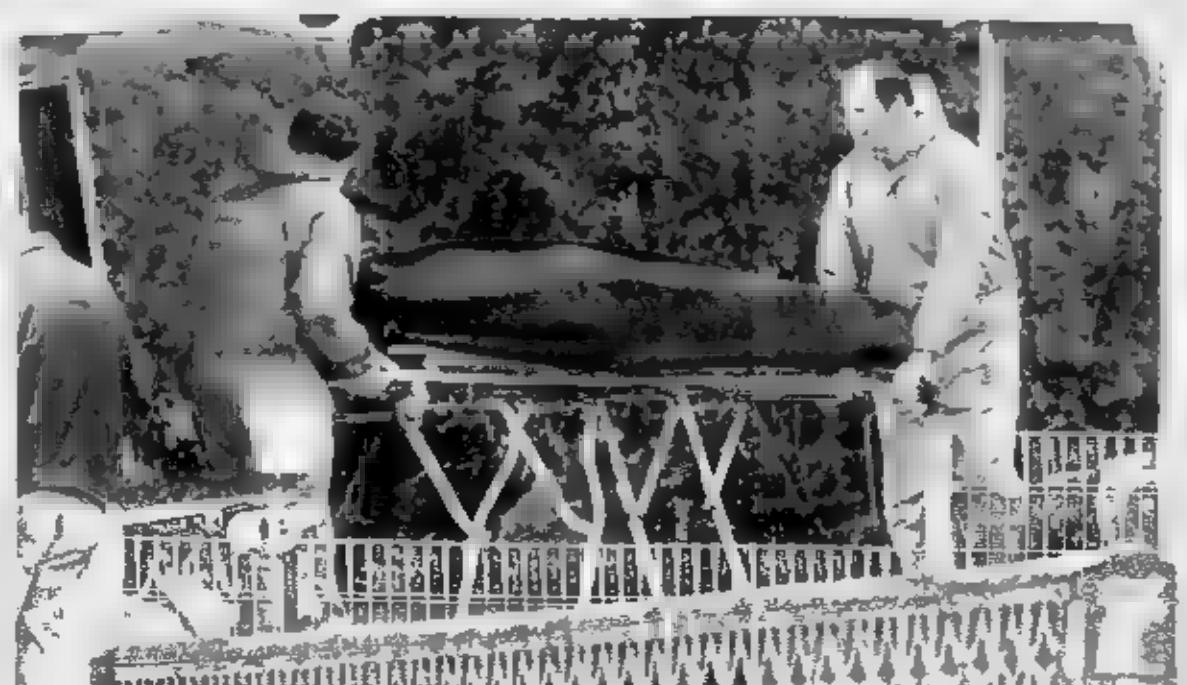
Police spoke briefly yesterday to Sef, but he was too traumatized to help with the investigation and was being counseled at a local church, according to the Telegraph.

Sef is now in the custody of his grandmother and an uncle who lived across the road, the papers said.

The Sydney Morning Herald said Teddy Gonzales was found stabbed to death in a hallway while his wife's throat had been cut. Both victims had also been stabbed repeatedly.

Their daughter, a final-year high school student at a prestigious Catholic private school, was found in an upstairs bedroom, her throat cut also.

Detectives described the house as "having been ransacked."



A BODY is removed from the Gonzales home where three family members were massacred on Wednesday. They were stabbed and shot to death.

ravel the sketchy details reaching them.

The Baguio relatives, still reeling from killer Typhoon Fena, got another rude shock when they learned of the murders on the same day they happened.

"I had just survived Typhoon Fena. We never realized we'd be bigger victims because of Australia," one female relative said.

Lowiva, who comes from the Baguio-based Claridades family, and Ted had kept in close touch with their relatives in their hometown, a family friend said.

Friends and relatives sifted through various reports, trying to separate fact from rumor. Reports from the Filipino community in Australia, for instance, made mention of an Asian rival who reportedly had "a nasty quarrel" with Ted's siblings.

A close friend of the family told Agence France Presse that two weeks before the murder, Sef called his relatives and told them an Australian teenager had rung him while on his way home.

The family said it was not clear whether this could have anything to do with the murders, but stressed all angles should be explored.

So much in love

Friends and neighbors in Sydney also expressed shock over the killings of the Gonzaleses, who were described as friendly, devout Catholics, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

"We are all so shocked. Why would anyone want to do such a terrible thing to such nice people?" family friend Irene David said. Reports from AFP, TJ Burgonio; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

The family reportedly moved to Australia from Manila in the early 1990s. They moved into their North Ryde home last December, according to one report.

Cobactulan said that the consulate had no records of the Gonzaleses, noting that they had likely acquired Australian citizenship.

Family in Baguio

In Baguio City, the Gonzaleses' hometown, Teddy's brother asked the Philippine government to actively participate in the Australian police probe into the killings.

"We want to know the truth," Frederick Gonzales said, as he fought back tears in the family's hometown in northern Baguio City.

"We urge the Philippine government through the consul to Australia to seriously look into the (murders) so that we will know the truth. We want justice."

Frederick, the owner of Baguio's First Inn, said he learned of the killings only Wednesday night and had yet to get in touch with authorities in Manila.

But a Baguio-based relative told the INQUIRER that Richard Go, a cousin of Ted, alerted his relatives Tuesday evening, setting off a series of telephone calls to Filipinos based in Sydney.

Frederick said he was to fly to Manila later Thursday to meet with officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs to facilitate a quick visa for Sydney.

"Australian authorities must investigate this seriously," Gonzales said.

He said the family had yet to receive word from Sef and that they want the remains flown back to the Philippines.

"We are, of course, in shock," Paranaan said, adding that the families have not received any formal communication yet from

the Department of Foreign Affairs, and have been relying for news on Cable News Network broadcasts and newspaper reports.

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The family said it was not clear

Delariarte leads CAP-Southwoods by 4

JEROME Delariarte, who lost amateur honors in the recent Philippine Open after a playoff, fired a seven-under-par 65 yesterday for a surprising 4-stroke lead at the start of the CAP-Legends Classic.

The 22-year-old Delariarte became the first amateur to lead the Tour, banging home seven birdies to miss the five-year-old Legends course record by a stroke.

It was the best round ever by Delariarte, the son of an Indonesia-based Andersen Consulting executive.

Elmer Salvador was next with a 69 in the

P700,000 fifth leg of the Philippine Golf Tour. Salvador, the former national amateur champion still seeking his first victory, was a stroke up on Edgar Ababa, Lito Rempaya, Mario Manabat and Angelo Que, the man who nosed out Delariarte at Wack Wack for the Open's low amateur honors.

Philippine Open champion Cassius Casas, Gerald Rosales and Danny Zarate had 71s.

"I feel relaxed all day because I'm playing my home course," said Delariarte.

Aside from main sponsor College Assurance

Plan, the event also has Ericsson, Smart, Wilson, Manila the Southwoods Manor, Callaway and Publitech Spark as donors.

The course record of 64 at Legends was set by Swede Daniel Olsso on Nov. 15, 1996 during the second round of the World amateurs.

Scores:

65—J. Delariarte; 69—E. Salvador, 70—E. Ababa, M. Manabat, L. Rempaya, A. Que; 71—F. Casas, F. Fernando, G. Rosales, J. Toribio, D. Zarate; 72—D. Cruz, B. Magada, R. Minoza, E. Sanchez; 73—V. Santa, D. Fortuna, R. Andina, A. Balan, R. Cueto, A. Eso, R. Pacholarin, M. Pucay, C. La'ao.



DELARIARTE

Barring an upset, Beijing is 2008 Olympics host

MOSCOW—Politics, sentiment and geography all point in the same direction: Barring an upset, the Olympics will be heading to China for the first time.

Despite criticism of its human rights record, Beijing remains the city to beat in Friday's vote by the International Olympic Committee on the host city of the 2008 Summer Games.

The other main contenders are Toronto and Paris, with Osaka, Japan, and Istanbul, Tur-

key, considered out of the running.

"We are very confident," Tu Mingde, secretary general of the Beijing bid, said Wednesday. "I don't want to use the word favorite. We're just concentrating on one target, the gold medal."

Toronto, with its emphasis on athletes, and Paris, with its romantic allure, cast themselves as technically superior, risk-free choices. Yet many IOC members are captivated by the higher

risk, higher-reward attraction of taking the games to the world's most populous nation.

The IOC likes to see the Olympics as an agent for positive change—and what bigger geopolitical statement than spreading the games to one-fifth of humanity?

"There is a feeling that it would be good for the world and good for China if they win," IOC vice president Kevin Gosper of Australia said in an interview Wednesday. AP

CNN broadcast

THE INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee will announce the winning city today. CNN will provide live updates as well as the IOC decision as it unfolds. CNN's correspondents will also report live from three of the candidate cities—Paris, Beijing and Toronto, on the reactions of these cities. CNN will also broadcast a special edition of *Insight* hosted by Jonathan Mann, providing a comprehensive look at the Olympics selection. AP

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7

SPORTS

A.L.S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUVA, Assistant Editor

SMB, Tanduay seek vital wins



NCAA ACTION

Ariel Capus (left) of Jose Rizal University tries to score with an underhand stab against Mapua's Steve Marcut in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. JRU won, 82-56. In the other seniors game, San Sebastian College beat University of Perpetual Help Rizal, 89-81, in double overtime.

Negros, Laguna meet anew

STANDINGS	W	L
Andok's San Juan	7	3
Cebuana Lhuillier	7	3
Negros	7	3
RBC Batangas	4	2
FedEx Leguna	3	4
Nueva Ecija	2	5
Davao	2	7
Soccsargen	2	7

GAMES TODAY Tingco Gym (Taguig)
3:00 p.m.—Batangas vs Soccsargen
USLS Gym (Bacolod)
6:30 p.m.—Laguna vs Negros

BY ROY LUARCA

If the Negros Slashers can beat the FedEx Leguna Lakers on the road, why not at home?

Negros coach Robert Sison is sure to expand on this fact when the Slashers and the Lakers clash anew in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

The Slashers conquered the Lakers, 103-93, right in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, on July 1 and Negrenses are sure

W	L
San Miguel	6
Purefoods	5
Barangay	4
Asuka	4
Sila Lucia	4
Pop Cola	3
Tanduay	3
	2

GAMES TODAY (PhilSports)
5:15 p.m.—Pop Cola vs San Miguel
7:30 p.m.—Tanduay vs Red Bull

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SAN Miguel Beer aims to seal the top quarterfinal slot against Pop Cola today even as Tanduay tries to sustain its drive to the next round in the PBA Commissioners Cup at the PhilSports Arena.

Assuming themselves of a twice-to-beat incentive the other night, the Beermen tackle the Panthers and hope for another victory that will give them the No. 1 spot entering the quarterfinals.

San Miguel clubbed Barangay Ginebra, 101-92, Wednesday night paving the way for the Beermen to wrest the lead with a 6-2 record.

Pop Cola is fielding in a new import in Jamie Watson, who replaced Jason Sasser in the Panthers' desperation to make the next round. Listed as 6-foot-7, Watson played for the Utah Jazz and was third placer during the 1995 NBA Slam Dunk contest.

The one-sided affair, which saw playmaker Olsen Racela score 30 points, also allowed the Beermen to break loose from a three-way logjam with Red Bull and Purefoods at the top.

Tanduay snapped Purefoods' five-game winning streak with an 83-77 reversal, striking fear on the hearts of the Thunder, their next possible victim in the nightcap at 7:30.

In dire need of a victory, the Rhumasters should pray that the Beermen run over the Panthers and hope luck would be on their side tonight to close in on the possibility of playing in the next round.

Davis, Raptors OK \$60-M plus deal

TORONTO — Antonio Davis and the Toronto Raptors have agreed to a five-year deal worth more than \$60 million, the player's agent said.

The agreement, which cannot be signed until July 18, allows the team to hang on to a coveted free agent after a string of high-profile defections. It also should help the Raptors re-sign superstar Vince Carter, who will be a free agent after next season, agent Bill Duffy said.

"It came down to Toronto putting it all together," Davis told the Toronto Sun from his home in Orlando, Florida. "All I can do is hope that in the long run I've made the best decision for my family."

Right now I see, that I have." AP

RP team replaced

THE ASIAN Basketball Confederation tapped Singapore to replace the Philippines in Group B of the 21st ABC Championships after the latter was suspended by Fiba due to the "messy and unsettled leadership squabble that has bounded the Basketball Association of the Philippines since last year." The event will be held July 20-28 in Shanghai, China.

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Per GMA-7 Press Release A1-0274, dated 07/01

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Pistol-packing priest gets snatchers

A26

METRO

LOU C. CANINO, Editor

Mom who poisoned 2 kids in Jollibee suicide attempt faces parricide raps

BY NELSON F. FLORES

THE MOTHER who tried to commit suicide and kill her three sons inside a hamburger chain last week in Makati City is now facing charges of two counts of parricide following the death of two of the boys.

Makati police yesterday said that parricide charges would be filed against Rosalina Sabala, 30, of

Marikina City, following the death of her sons Raul III, 6, and Ramon Roberto, 10, from apparent food poisoning.

Sabala and her other son, Richard, 8, are both in stable condition at the Medical City in Mandaluyong where they have been transferred for treatment after Sabala's failed suicide.

Police records showed that Sabala and her three sons ordered

combo meals of spaghetti and hamburger at the Jollibee branch in Rockwell Mall in Makati City on July 5.

Witnesses told police that after mother and sons started eating, the youngest boy collapsed, but Sabala ignored him and continued to send a text message on her cell phone. Witnesses said that a few minutes later, Sabala and her two other sons also collapsed.

Police records showed that

Members of the Rockwell security staff and Jollibee personnel rushed the Sabalas to a clinic and then to the Ospital Ng Makati.

Doctors found the four to be suffering from symptoms of poisoning like vomiting, headaches and dizziness.

Police records showed that Raul III died several hours after reaching the hospital.

The Sabalas were later trans-

ferred to Medical City in Mandaluyong City. But last Saturday, Ramon Roberto also died at the hospital, police said.

Yesterday, PO2 Juvenal Barbossa, Makati City police homicide investigator, said Sabala could again try to kill herself to evade responsibility for the death of her two sons.

Results of the analysis of the

MOM WHO/A26

60 injured in Malabon demolition

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

ABOUT 60 people, including 10 policemen, were yesterday injured during a violent demolition of squatter shanties in Malabon.

Chief Insp. Pablo Aquino Jr., head of the police team that secured the area, said he and at least nine of his men were hurt after residents attacked them.

But squatters living under tents near Letre Road said police sparked the violence and beat up about 50 people, including women and children.

The violent clash happened about 10 a.m. after Malabon police and a private demolition team arrived at Paradise Village on Letre Road.

Aquino said the demolition of

60 INJURED/A26

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Pistol-packing priest gets snatchers

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A PISTOL-PACKING Pariaque parish priest yesterday showed a father and son team of cell phone snatchers the wrath of a man of God.

Fr Rico Noblezza, 32, of the Sta. Rita Parish in Pariaque City, was on board a jeepney going to Bacoor when two men also boarded the jeepney at around

5 a.m. yesterday.

One of the men, later identified as Manuel Samson, 49, of 119 F. Progreso St., Pariaque, sat beside the priest in the front seats. Samson's son, Christian, 19, sat in the back.

Police learned that Manuel poked a knife at Noblezza and asked for his cellphone.

"I told him, 'Wait a minute, child, I

shall get it from my waist,'" Noblezza told police.

However, instead of getting his cell phone, the priest pulled out a .45 caliber pistol and told the Samsons to surrender.

Seeing the pistol, Father and son jumped out of the jeepney and ran.

But Noblezza, together with the other male passengers, chased the Samsons and eventually cornered them. The pas-

sengers brought them to the nearest police station.

At the police station, Manuel and Christian begged the priest not to file charges against them.

The priest refused and said only God could forgive them for what they had done.

"They should not go to jail for the things they have done," the priest boomed.

Malonzo cleared of graft charges

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has dismissed the graft case against Caloocan officer in charge Reynaldo Malonzo and other former local officials in connection with the release of P5.9 million as bank payment for the construction of a public market.

The graft case was filed by former Mayor Macario "Boy" Aristio Jr.

The Ombudsman earlier found no probable cause to charge Malonzo and other local officials with graft.

The case stemmed from the contested P5.9-million portion of Caloocan's P22.814-million loan from the Philippine National Bank for the construction of the Maypao public market in 1983. Aristio was mayor at that time.

Four years later, the PNB debited the loan amount of P5,089,117 from the city's account and released it directly to project contractor Ruflex Development and Construction Co. after the city failed to pay its outstanding annual amortization.

The local government sued the bank.

Both parties agreed to amicably settle the issue.

The city council passed an ordinance authorizing the city government to release P5.9 million to pay its PNB loan. The loan had already ballooned to about P37 million in interest and other charges.

Aristio argued that the ordinance was illegal since it did not pass through the city treasurer and auditor.

The Sandiganbayan ruled that the ordinance was made in "good faith with the primary purpose of saving public funds for the city."

Rob suspects nabbed trying to get wounded cohort out of hospital

BY JEROME ANING

POLICE yesterday caught three suspected holdup men who tried to go to a hospital to get a companion who was shot during a heist in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Gerry Cruz, 19, single and a resident of 3665 Pi ar St. Tondo, was shot in the right side of the torso by SPO1 Elmer Mauricio of the Western Police District Station 3 who happened to be on board the jeepney during the holdup.

The other suspects, Exequiel Praga, 18, of Block 34, Lot 19, Phase 2, Area 1, Kaumanan Village, Navotas, Nelson Sipagan, 18, of 220 Carnation St., North Bay Boulevard, Navotas; and Victor Garagutin, 21, of 1306 Solis St., Tondo, were arrested when they tried to have Cruz discharged from the emergency room of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC), also in

Sta. Cruz. Station 3 commander Supt. Danilo Abasosa said the four men held up about 15 passengers of a jeepney at the corner of Tomasi Mapua and Yusoco streets around 11:45 p.m. Wednesday.

According to SPO1 Mauricio, who was seated at the far end in the back of the jeepney, two of the four men drew out fair knives and threatened to stab anyone who would resist, while the two other men took the wallets, cell phones and jewelry of the passengers.

When the four men got off the jeepney, SPO1 Mauricio ran after them. He said he introduced himself as a policeman, told them to stop and surrender, and even fired a warning shot.

But two of the suspects turned around and tried to attack him, he said. He fled to the suspects, hitting Cruz. The other suspects were able to escape, leaving behind

a fair knife and a cell phone.

SPO1 Mauricio, assisted by two passengers of a passing tricycle, brought the wounded suspect to the JRMMC. The policemen, accompanied by two of the holdup victims, later went to Station 3 headquarters to report the holdup.

SPO1 Mauricio was recounting the incident to investigator PO1 Ireneos Sosas Jr. when the security office of the JRMMC called Station 3 and reported that three men were trying to force their way into the emergency room to "claim" Cruz.

The two policemen drove to the hospital, where SPO1 Mauricio recognized the three men as among the holdup men.

Praga, Sipagan and Garagutin were arrested and brought to Station 3, where they were positively identified by victims Rey Jonathan Pascual and Larry

Ancheta, who is in prison for robbery and physical injuries, was confined at the mental institution before he was transferred to the city jail in February. Benitez said.

He said that Wednesday night Ancheta began acting strangely, talking to himself and then becoming more aggressive than usual toward the other inmates.

Benitez said his men had to handcuff Ancheta and separate him from the other detainees, but the deranged man's behavior even got worse.

At 3:30 a.m. yesterday, Ancheta, who is 3-foot-5 and heavily built, broke his handcuffs, Benitez said.

Ancheta then climbed the stairs in the prison annex building and then jumped, landing on the ground head first, Benitez said.

But all Ancheta got was a head bruise, he added.

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Natalia Oreiro charmed by Pinoys and jeepneys

NOT SINCE Thalia, the Mexican telenovela star who captured the hearts of Filipino viewers, has a Spanish-speaking heroine been adored on local TV.

Natalia Oreiro the Latin bombshell is expected to duplicate the success of Thalia's "Marimar" with the newest telenovela, "Monica Brava."

Natalia came to Manila last week to promote "Monica Brava," which airs at 8 p.m., nighty on GMA 7. The telenovela is now being viewed in 23 countries, including the United States, Russia and all of Latin America.

Natalia first made a name for herself in Argentina, where "Monica Brava" became the highest rated TV program. From her birthplace in Uruguay, she moved to Argentina where, at 17, she started her singing and acting career.

"My mom was a hairdresser and whenever I was in her parlor, I would get a brush which I would use as a microphone and sing in front of a big mirror," Natalia recalls.

The 24-year-old beauty took her flair for singing after her mom, whom she says has a very good singing voice. "But she doesn't sing professionally," she says. "I got my passion for music from my great grandfather, who was part of an orchestra. Uruguay is also a very musical country, so that also accounts for my talent."

At 8, Natalia started taking acting classes. When she was 12, she was cast in a commercial. It paved the way for more than 30 other commercials for major products.

At 14, she bested more than 10,000 hopefuls to tour with Brazilian TV and music star Xuxa. She also performed for the latter's TV

show.

When she moved to Argentina, Natalia landed role on the soap opera, "Inconquistable Corazon." She also became a VJ for MTV America Latina.

Commercial success came when Natalia snagged the lead role as Valeria in the soap opera "Ricos y Famosos."

Not too long after, she conquered the big screen in her first movie, "Un Argentino en Nueva York (An Argentine in New York)," where she played a young woman who dreams of becoming a singing star. The film premiered in Buenos Aires the same weekend "Titanic" hit local theaters, and Natalia's movie gave the Hollywood blockbuster a run for its money.

Natalia is also a recording artist. Her debut album, which contains the theme of "Monica Brava," was certified triple platinum.

In January 2000, she was named "Celebrity of the Year" by E! Entertainment TV Latino. Also last year, she recorded her second album, "Tu Veneno."

Which she promoted in Greece, Slovenia, Hungary, Turkey and Israel.

Natalia's album is distributed locally by BMG Records (Pilipinas).

Of the many places she has visited, Natalia is awed by the Kremlin in Russia and the historic sites in Israel. She is fascinated with our jeepneys, which she describes as "small buses." GMA 7 gifted her with a small replica of a jeepney.

"It's my first time to see something like that and it's beautiful," she says of the colorful jeepney.

"But of all the places I've visited, people in the Philippines are the warmest. Your culture is very similar to my country. I want to

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS



Leah Salterio

come back here, do a concert and go to the beach."

She attributes the global success of telenovelas to the Mexican soap opera series. "The Mexican telenovelas opened the door for telenovelas in the world. It's not the country that counts but the uniqueness of the star. It's important for a star to be different."

"Monica Brava" is about an orphan raised by nuns in a convent. Due to her passion for football, Monica spent her childhood playing with boys, hence her tomboyish charm.

When she grows up, she works in the DiCarlo manor where she meets Ivo, who will be her love interest.

Asked what she likes doing best, singing or acting, Natalia says, "I am always focused in my career or whatever I'm doing. I love singing and acting. I'm sure I will be doing both for a long time."

PTV 4 now NBN

THE NEW people appointed by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to be at the helm of People's Television or PTV 4, are working toward a major makeover for the government-owned network.

First on the agenda is to change the name of the station, which will formally be known as National Broadcasting Network or NBN.

The network is now under the direction of Mis A. Concio as chair

and president, with Joey S. Isabelo as general manager.

"This decision of the board of directors underscores the network's desire to rehabilitate itself, primarily its image and play a more substantial role in the local broadcast industry," Concio points out.

This is the third major makeover for Channel 4, in its 30-year existence. The station was initially known as GTV 4 when it opened in 1974. Then it was renamed Maharlika Broadcasting Network in 1980.

In March 1992, former Pres. Cory Aquino signed a Republic Act and turned the station into a government corporation known as People's Television Network.

According to Concio, Channel 4 has been operating on its own revenues since 1992. The network has been on full satellite transmission nationwide since then, with 40-kilowatt transmitter on a 500-foot tower.

Isabelo, meanwhile, adds that Channel 4 has 27 provincial stations and is affiliated with over 800 cable system across the country, translating its reach to 92 percent of the viewing public nationwide.

Yet, even if Channel 4 has maintained a low profile all these years, its present board of directors believes the network has the capabilities to be a major player in the industry.

Isabelo informs Channel 4 was the first station to acquire digital technology and convert satellite transmission to digital compression.

"Our provincial stations use solid-state transmitters with powers ranging from 1 KW to 10 KW. And we were the first to simultaneously transmit programs to provincial stations and independent



Olei Oreiro wants to "come back and go to the beach" ROGER MARGALLO

gramming which is sports, by airing the coverage of the South East Asian Games.

"This time, we intend to take full advantage of our wide reach and strengthen our position with new shows and a more aggressive marketing strategy," Concio says.

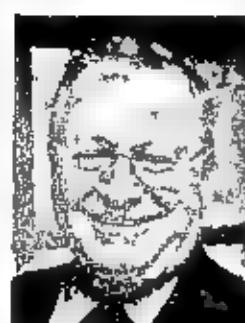
CNBC boss graces ceremonial broadcast

NON-CABLE subscribers can now enjoy CNBC Asia's 24-hour up-to-the-minute global market events and top business stories daily, over UHF Channel 11, without paying extra cable costs.

CNBC chief executive officer Scott Goodfellow was in Manila recently for the ceremonial switch-on of CNBC Asia in Channel 11.

"We are very excited over this move," said Goodfellow. "The goal of our business is to try to give ordinary viewers the tools to handle their finances. CNBC provides them with all the information they need. And by being in over-the-air TV in Manila, we can reach ordinary people, hopefully help in improving their lives."

Entertainment Network Limited or Enternet, a Singapore-based TV content provider recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Zoe Broadcasting Network to manage the programming of UHF Channel 11. Before CNBC, Chan-



GOODFELLOW

nel 11 was airing 10 hours of inspirational Christian programming.

With Enternet at the helm, Channel 11 is expected to go through a major change in programming. The presence of CNBC Asia is the initial move to put Channel 11 in line with other commercial channels in Philippine TV.

CNBC Asia has bureaus in Bangkok, New Delhi, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sydney and Taipei and Tokyo.

The news and information network reaches over 20 million households. Its program schedule is designed to cover the markets when they open at the start of business and throughout the working day.

CNBC airs its live overnight US programming and stays with Wall Street till the Asian markets open the new day.

The network provides current financial data in ticker tape and the index box. The ticker tape, the long narrow strip at the bottom of the TV screen provides the stock data, while the index box offers a quick display on how Asian markets are performing throughout the trading day. It also has a regional ticker which shows the day's most active stocks in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Bangkok, Jakarta, Sydney and Wellington.



INTERACTIVE TV TECHNOLOGY

Oscar Malaguena (second from left), vice president for marketing of Philippine Multi-Media System Inc. (PMSI) shakes hands with OpenTV Asia Pacific managing director Jeffrey Brown, after they signed an agreement for the latter to provide interactive TV technology for PMSI and

Dream Broadcasting System's Direct-To-Home (DTH) satellite TV service. Also in photo are PMSI dealer sales development head Butch Reyes (left), OpenTV Asia Pacific production marketing manager Gialei Wu (center) and PMSI assistant brand manager Jun Manas.

Being friends with a former rival

(From page A32)

we were just having a long awaited meal together.

For her effort, I was touched. Ms D was able to set aside the fact that my shoot was for a rival network.

Last Monday, together with Zsa Zsa Padilla, one of my best friends, and our buddy Keren Pascual, Dina and I watched NBC's premiere of "Along Came a Spider" at Glorietta 4. We felt like the cast of "Sex and the City" when we had a late dinner afterward at Azzuro.

Being mature

We had so much fun critiquing the film, and sharing tidbits about our personal and professional lives. In that group, only Zsa Zsa is happily settled; the rest of us are still in limbo.

I am so grateful to Zsa Zsa's supporting me in getting to know Dina. In turn, we both saw that Dina was sincere in her desire to bond with us when she even joined us in our weekly novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Bacolod.

What's next? Who knows? Life's too short to not grab the chance to have one less enemy. Life's too exciting to not explore the possibility of sharing a true friendship, especially with someone you once considered a worthy rival.

After all, having her opposite me in the morning inspired me to be a better host. Having her beside me now might really make me a better person. Just by reaching out to each other, I'd like to think that we've both already exhibited a commendable amount of maturity.

FIRST LOVE

All Original Artists

Lenny Kravitz Again • Britney Spears - From The Bottom Of My Broken Heart
Robbie Williams - Better Man • Christina Aguilera - Turn To You
Spice Girls - Let Love Lead The Way • 98 Degrees - My Everything
BoyzOne - No Matter What • N.E.R.D. - Don't Say You Love Me
Mandy Moore - I Wanna Be With You • BBMAK - Back Here
Craig David - Fill Me In
and more...



On CDs & Cassettes

OctoArts EMI

MUSIC FOR LIVING

NATIONAL NEWS
and more
News Updates

TOP STORIES
PROVIDED BY

Favorites ko!

Computers

EDUCY

OPERATING

Enjoy
the new

TALK'N TEXT

OSM

With the high-tech SIM that yo

Lahat tayo, may kanya-kanyang trip. That's why the new Talk 'N Text with zed menu lets you personalize your cellphone with the zed menu.

It's so easy! Here's how:

STEP 1:



Access your
TALK'N TEXT
with zed menu.

STEP 2:



Click PERSONALIZE

STEP 3:



Choose your options:
ACTIVATE - to add
available services to your
personalized menu.
DEACTIVATE - to remove
the activated service.

STEP 4:



Click the menus
that you want to
include in your
personalized me

* Choose from the following folders: Talk 'N Text • My Favorites • Mail • Chat • News • Traffic • Entertainment • Group Text •

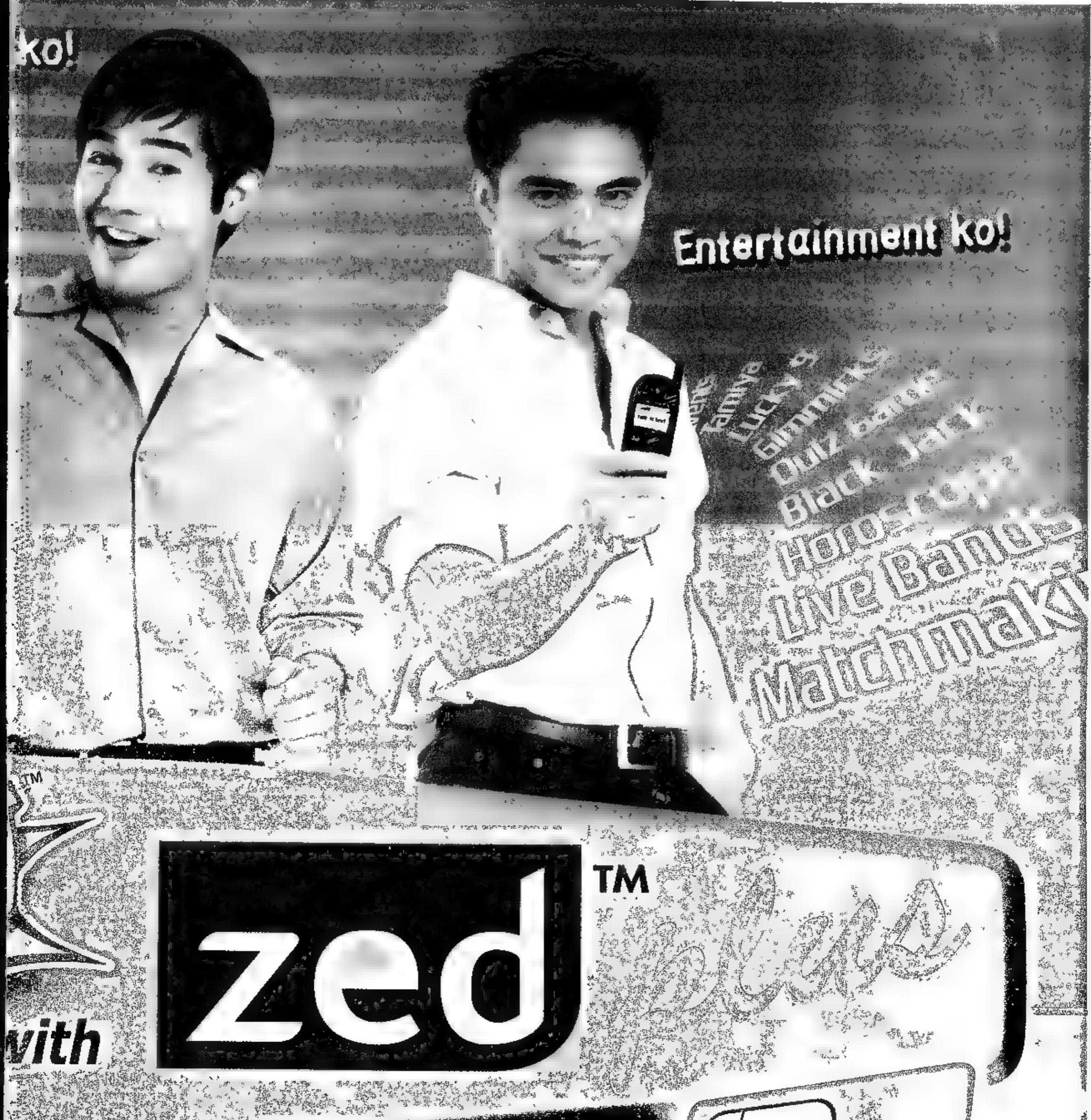
Talk 'N Text is

POWERED BY THE



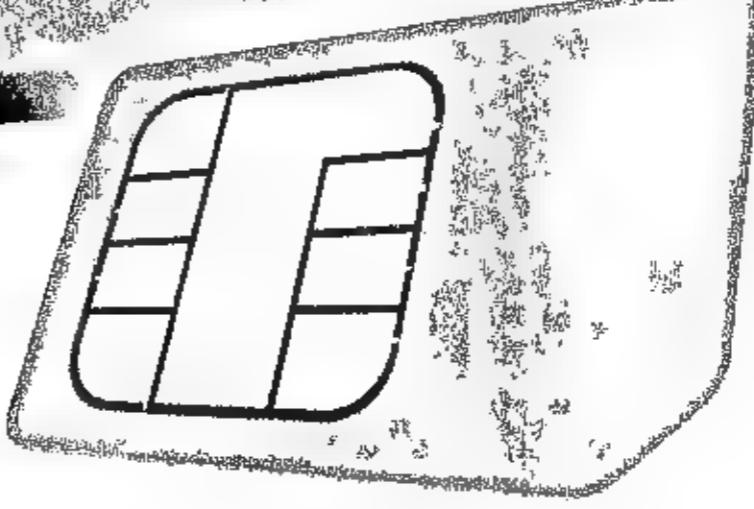
KO!

Entertainment KO!



you can personalize!

zed plus comes with a 32K Microbrowser SIM
services na trip mo!



You now have your
personalized menu in your
Talk 'N Text with zed plus SIM.

Today • Travel • Search • My Shop • Money Matters

Individual SIM Pack
available for
P990 only!

Grab one now!

Yan ang galing ng Talk-N-Text with zed plus

CINEMA	
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999	
NOW SHOWING	
CITY BACOOR MON-FRI	CITY NORTHEDSA
1 FINAL FANTASY	1 OR DOOL TLE 2
2 ALONG CAME A SPIDER	2 PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3 DR. DOLITTLE 2	3 ATLANTIS
4 TOMB RAIDER	4 SWORD FISH
5 DRIVEN	5 ALONG CAME A SPIDER
6 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	6 FINAL FANTASY
7 AMORSEKO	7 DRIVEN
8 SWORD FISH	8 TOMB RAIDER
CENTERPOINT TUES-FRIDAY	9 MILA
1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	10 AMORSEKO
2 ALONG CAME A SPIDER	11 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3 SWORD FISH	12 ORSEHAN
4 DR. DOLITTLE 2	
5 DRIVEN	SOUTHLAKE MON-FRI
6 ATLANTIS	1 AMORSEKO
7 TOMB RAIDER	2 TOMB RAIDER
8 FINAL FANTASY	3 DRIVEN
9 MILA	4 DR. DOLITTLE 2
10 AMORSEKO	5 ORSEHAN
CITY FAIRVIEW	6 ATLANTIS
1 ORSEHAN	7 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	8 FINAL FANTASY
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4 DRIVEN	10 SWORD FISH
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7 DR. DOLITTLE 2	1 AMORSEKO
8 TOMB RAIDER	2 DRIVEN
9 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	3 PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10 MILA	
11 FINAL FANTASY	CEBU SUNDAY
12 AMORSEKO	1 ATLANTIS
CITY MAXILA MON-FRI	2 GET OVER IT
1 FINAL FANTASY	3 PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2 TOMB RAIDER	4 SWORD FISH
3 DR. DOLITTLE 2	5 TOMB RAIDER
4 DRIVEN	6 ACCIDENTAL SPY
5 ALONG CAME A SPIDER	7 SPOT
6 SWORD FISH	
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8 EVOLUTION	1 SWORD FISH
9 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	2 CLOSED
10 MILA	3 EVOLUTION
11 ATLANTIS	4 ACCIDENTAL SPY
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	7 CLOSED
	8 ATLANTIS
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3 DRIVEN	2 ATLANTIS
4 SWORD FISH	3 ALONG CAME A SPIDER
5 DR. DOLITTLE 2	4 TOMB RAIDER
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1 DRIVEN	
2 DR. DOLITTLE 2	DAVAO
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4 AMORSEKO	
	STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS
dts	
DOLBY	
DIGITAL	
STEREOPHONIC	

This image is a collage of numerous movie guides and promotional materials from various theaters across the Philippines. It includes:

- AYALA CINEMAS**: Shows a film strip logo and lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- GLORIETTA 1**, **GLORIETTA 4**, **GREENBELT**: Lists movies including Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- M M T A (Metro Manila Theaters Association)**: Features a large star logo and lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Filinvest**: Shows a film reel icon and lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- FESTIVAL CINEMA**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Pearl Plaza Cinemas**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Maragana CINEMA**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- starmall Movies**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Metropolis**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Loy Ute's CINEMA**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Spring**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Sunshine**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- GOTESCO CINEMA**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Grand Central**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Commonwealth**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Ortigas**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Universal**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Sampaguita**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- ONSEHAN**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Montgomery**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Prima**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- SUPER CINEMA**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- New Divisoria Mall**: Shows a film strip logo and lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Divisoria CINEMA**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Bacalaran LRT**: Shows a film strip logo and lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- LRT CINEMA**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Berma**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Cti Mall**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Cinema 2000 Target Mall**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Cinema 2000 Waltermart**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Cinemagix**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Lianas Cinema**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Lianas MovieCity**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Olivarez Tri-Cinema**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Olivarez Los Baños**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Olivarez Tagaytay**: Lists movies like Evolution, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Morales Cinema**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Cabuyao**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Fourstep**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Emperor**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Fiesta World Mall**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.
- Jade Cinema**: Lists movies like Final Fantasy, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Pangako, Ikwlang.

The bottom of the page features a large advertisement for "PLANET 9 BALL" with the tagline "BECOME LIKE A STAR".

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD	
	<p>State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas e-mail: rcic@metacomm.com.ph http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com</p>
NOW SHOWING	
 GALLERIA <small>(02) 923-70-10 / (02) 923-70-11</small>	 NOVALICHES <small>(02) 994-10-47</small>
1 DRIVEN	1 SWORD FISH
2 FINAL FANTASY	2 SOON TO OPEN
3 DR. DOLITTLE	3 PANGAKO KAW LANG
4 SWORD FISH	4 ALONG CAME A SPIDER
5 DRIVEN	5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]	6 AMORSEKO
7 TOMB RAIDER	7 FINAL FANTASY
8 PANGAKO KAW LANG	8 DR. DOLITTLE
9 ATLANTIS	
10 AMORSEKO	
 ERMITA <small>(02) 740-10-11</small>	 BACOLOD <small>(034) 441-5451</small>
1 [REDACTED]	1 TOMB RAIDER
2 SWORD FISH	2 EVOLUTION
3 DR. DOLITTLE	3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4 [REDACTED]	4 ANGEL EYES
5 [REDACTED]	5 CITY OF SIN
6 [REDACTED]	6 [REDACTED]
7 FINAL FANTASY	
 IMUS <small>(046) 61-0800</small>	SOON TO OPEN
1 DRIVEN	 METRO EAST
2 [REDACTED]	 ILOILO
3 ALONG CAME A SPIDER	 SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
4 [REDACTED]	
5 [REDACTED]	
6 [REDACTED]	
7 FINAL FANTASY	
 THEATER	IX DOOLEY! <small>CELESTINE</small>
 MOVIE GUIDE	dts sdds
ARANETA CENTER THEATERS #11-3101	
AL MALL CINEPLEX-1	PANGAKO KAW LANG
AL MALL CINEPLEX-2	TOMB RAIDER
AL MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	DRIVEN
AL MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
AL MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
AL MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME SPIDER
AL MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DR. DOLITTLE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	AMORSEKO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ONSEHAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	SENSUAL / SECRET GAMES
ODEON	DRIVEN
ODEON-2	ALONG CAME SPIDER
ROBIN	AMORSEKO
TANDEM-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
TANDEM-2	PANINDA
T MES	15 MINUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	AMORSEKO
QUEZON-1	AMORSEKO
REMAR	AMORSEKO
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	(02) 29-70 / (033) 70-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-2	FINAL FANTASY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(041) 5401 TO 19
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	ONSEHAN
CINEMA-7	[REDACTED]
CINEMA-8	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	[REDACTED]
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
C NEMA-12	[REDACTED]
C NEMA-14	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO KAW LANG
LORES	
L NEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
[REDACTED]	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-5	DRIVEN
[REDACTED]	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
1 AS PIHAS	
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	COLLEGE GIRL
[REDACTED]	MULATA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAHAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-2	VALENTINE
[REDACTED]	WOMEN IN CAGES

A 30

MTV airs new US shows

MTV's "Cribs," one of the leading MTV programs in the United States, finally arrives in the Philippines.

**Take a peek into
www.ford.com/peek**

your favorite celebrity's sanctuary where they catch up on some rest and relaxation, in the place they like to call home

On MTV's "Cribs," the artists themselves serve as tour-guides and show visitors where

show viewers where they work, play, eat, sleep and live.

Catch glimpses of the homes of Ozzy Osbourne, Joey McIn-tyre, Sugar Ray, Outkast,

Destiny's Child, Snoop Dogg, Robbie Williams, Tommy Lee and other stars as they take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of their private abode.

MTV's "Cribs" airs on MTV Philippines non-cable TV Channel 41 on Mondays, 8 p.m., with repeats on Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 5 p.m.

and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Another new show hitting MTV Philippines is "MTV Soundcheck," where the show will present three new music videos, and after viewing each, viewers can vote for their favorite video on www.mtvasia.com, which can lead to your choice of video being added to the MTV playlist.

"MTV Soundcheck" airs on MTV Philippines non-cable TV Channel 41 on Mondays 2 to 2:15 p.m., Tuesdays, 8:30 to 8:45 a.m., Wednesdays, 10 to 10:15 a.m., Thursdays, 9 to 9:15 p.m. and Fridays, 5 to 5:15 p.m.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for free TV or non-cable subscribers, Channel 32 for Sky Cable subscribers and Channel 41 for Home Cable subscribers.

For more information, call the MTV hotline at 882 IMTV,

or log onto www.mtvasia.com.

Movies

HOLLYWOOD heart-throb Leonardo DiCaprio stars in the action-suspense flick, "The Beach," 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 15 on Star Movies.

The movie also stars French actress Virginie Ledoyen, Robert Carlyle, Tilda Swinton and Guillaume Canet.

Guillaume Canet.
Replays on July 20
and 26.
In the movie, D.
Caprio plays a young
American backpacker
who arrives in Thai-
land with adventure on

land with adventure on his mind.

the search for experience, the quest for something different

CINEMA

The image shows a THX logo with the slogan "The Clearer You Hear, The More You See. Movies Differently." Below it, a black banner reads "NOW SHOWING" in white, and underneath that, "FINAL FANTASY" in a larger, stylized font.

FINAL FANTASY:
The Spirits Within
PG-13 RT 1:44
Fantasy-Action
Science Fiction-Adventure
Starring:
Ming-Na Wen

Ming-Tse Chen
James Woods
Ving Rhames
Steve Buscemi
Donald Sutherland

**UPCOMING MOVIES
AT LOUIE'S THX:
JURASIC PARK III**

Bridget Jones Diary
Mouen Roug®

Video games expanded to feature-film length

THE Film scene is experiencing some major changes this year, and the unnerving and exciting thing about these drastic innovations is that most of them are unexpected.

Leading the field is the sudden popularity of movies based on video games. This was tried some years ago with films like "Wing Commander," "Street Fighter" and "Super Mario Bros." but they didn't emerge as hits.

This year, however, "Lara Croft Tomb Raider" broke records on its opening weekend, making a big star of its lead actress, Angelina Jolie.

Next to hit the movie screens is another film based on a video game, "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within." Unlike

"Tomb Raider," which was live action, "Final Fantasy" is an animated feature.

Will it do as well at the box office as "Tomb Raider" has? If it does, you can bet that many major Hollywood studios will green-light their own cinematic take-offs on video games.

What "Final Fantasy" has going for it is the popularity of the original Japanese video game. Naturally, people who have played it will be curious about how it's going to be expanded into feature-film length. Of such loyal audiences are hit movies made.

But there are movie veterans who caution producers from jumping onto the video game movie bandwagon just

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

yet. They point to the fact that "Tomb Raider" cost \$80 M to make, and "Final Fantasy" has an even bigger price tag: \$120M! It'll take a lot of loyal fans to make such an expensive production end up in the black.

Also, the nay-sayers note that video games are popular because they're interactive, whereas their movie versions aren't.

Clearly, the film versions have to make up for this loss of hands-on participation with other exciting touches

and flourishes.

Some viewers are also turned off by video game movies' tendency to have lightweight plots. Most of their focus is on their visual gimmicks and effects, but these aren't enough for some moviegoers.

This could have accounted for the fact that "Tomb Raider" had a very strong opening but enjoyed smaller houses shortly thereafter, possibly resulting from poor word of mouth about its thin plotting.

In any case, "Final Fantasy" is about to open in the States, so in a week or two, we'll know how flash-in-the-pan or truly flashy the new trend for video game films will turn out to be.

Since both video games and the movies are billion-dollar enterprises (\$8 billion for the movies, \$6 billion for video games), producers hope that a "marriage" of these blockbuster entertainment industries will be a matter of addition and multiplication, marriage will be made in entertainment heaven—or on the cutting-room floor.

Janet Basco releases new album

OUR everlasting thanks go to singing star

Janet Basco for refusing to call herself a diva. That kind of humility is so welcome these days, when so many female singers audaciously crown themselves with that title just because they can belt out a high note and scream loud enough to be heard in Cabadbaran, Agusan. Well, hog callers are similarly gifted, but they don't call themselves divas—*a, di wa?*

Back to Janet:

She's cut her first new record in 17 years and is currently on a mall tour to promote it. Schedule: July 14, SM Southmall, July 15, SM Cebu; July 27, SM North Edsa, and July 29, SM Megamall.

Janet's album, "Love Is Right," sings about the various stages of falling in and out of love. Its career single is titled "Kiss Me

Goodbye."

Get yourself a copy of the album, why don't you? Janet's been reaping acclaim as a singer since the early '80s, but she's managed to keep a level head on those pretty shoulders all this time. In the biz, that's quite an unusual achievement.

Since we're in this business, we don't really have to buy albums, but we're getting

ting "Love Is Right" for ourselves because we want to show our appreciation to Janet for not going the way of all flash in the "diva-stating" music biz.

We do have legit divas, but many of them are found in classical music. As for female singers who are unqualified to call themselves divas but do so anyway, *di vale na lang*.

Final Fantasy

RATED PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

Eye-popping sci-fi epic adventure

In the year 2086, a meteor crashes Earth, unleashing millions of destructive alien creatures. The beautiful Dr. Aki Ross is the planet's hope to overpower the alien invaders.

Infected with an alien spirit, Aki holds the key to defeating the creatures, as she scours the earth to collect the eight spirits that will save the planet, and pursues her final fantasy.

Share a motion picture unlike anything seen or imagined before on screen. Marvel at the latest in hyper-real CGI (computer generated image) technology.

Don't miss the adventure movie of the year!

3RD MUST-SEE ADVENTURE DAY!



Sexy, wacky comedy opens July 18

Introducing, the "Tomcats," tropa ng free-wheeling, sex-obsessed guys, na walang inatupag kung hindi maka-iskor at magbibang ng nobya.

Nagpustahan ang barkada— sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang laing taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell) ng JERRY MAGUIRE at Kyle (Jake Busey) ng STARSHIP TROOPERS na, lang ang natitirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pista, ise-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth) ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Nguni't di nya inaasahan na mainlab din pale siya sa sexing daaga. Manalo man siya sa pista, maglalago naman ang true love niya.

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schulte at Amber Smith. Rated R.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

After its successful one-night gig at Virgin Cafe Tomas Morato on June 22, True Faith will have a repeat performance on Saturday July 14. The show is part of Virgin Cafe's ongoing series, "Great Band Nights," featuring top bands in the rock, music scene.

Stand-up comedy show

COMEDIAN Alan K hosts a stand-up comedy act, "Up Nose Nothing Personal," at 9 tomorrow night, July 14, at Oh Bar (near Delta Theater) in Quezon City.

Special guests are Kiray and Chazz, with backup dancers Joshua Cruz and Jasper Robles.

Ticket prices are P400 and P300. For inquiries, call or text 0917-8904470 or 0917-8984470.

ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS JULY 18 (Wed.)

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"

RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE

IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH,
YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY...
YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.

SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portray young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst riotous turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus, from Daniel Woodrell's novel *One to Live On*.

SECOND WEEK HYPER-ELECTRIFYING ACTION THAT'S HOTTER THAN BURSTING FLAMES!

MTRCB RATING R Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

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ex. **sureseats_G4 1:06:00pm 2**

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(*Ticket reservation is currently available at Glorietta 4.)

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AM FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

ENTERTAINMENT

Being friends with a former rival

CAN former rivals eventually become good friends? That's the question Dina Bonnevie and I are trying to answer.

We had a colorful and sometimes tempestuous past, hosting rival talk shows, my "Today with Kris Aquino" and her "D-Day" (although in fact only her last half-hour and my first were really aired smack opposite each other) for a little more than a year. Previous to that, she took over two of the shows that I chose to leave behind, RPN's "Actually Yun Na" in 1995 and my first solo talk show, GMA and Viva television's "Kris" which evolved into "Ms D" in late 1996. Needless to say, numerous comparisons were always being made.

I vacated my morning slot in March, and last week, Dina granted me a one-on-one interview on my show, "Kris and Tell." Finally, time for a truce?

The truth is I hesitated facing her. I feared some of her thimly veiled "barbs." The last thing I wanted

KRIS AND TELL



Kris Aquino

was to be an ungracious host.

Warming up

Dina was punctual for our 8 p.m. taping, on that Sunday, July 1. If you watched the July 2 and 3 airings of that encounter, you'd have witnessed that we did warm up to each other, enjoying our verbal jousting, laughing at our "common denominators," and musing about the opportunity to share the tube at some future joint talk show outing. In our business, after all, nothing is impossible for as long as the network's budget can accommodate the pairing.

I sent Dina a thank you text that night after she'd given me her cell phone number. I

was slightly miffed that she didn't respond immediately. That night I went home thinking, "Oh well, at least I tried to reach out and I was able to express my appreciation. Too bad if she didn't feel like reciprocating."

The next day while I was being made up for my location taping, my cell phone started ringing, and to my pleasant surprise, it was Dina. She explained that she'd failed to notice that her phone's battery had died and only charged it upon waking up. That's when she saw that I'd texted her.

Making allowances

We both have full schedules, and Thursday night was the most convenient time for us to have an early dinner and catch the film "Swordfish." We're both movie addicts and watching a flick together seemed like an excellent way to start bonding.

Late Wednesday night I was informed that I suddenly had a shoot with Bernard Palanca for Thursday night because he was now available to tape with me to complete my week on "Kris and Tell" with the "Hunks." I was embarrassed to inform Dina that I could only make it to dinner and we had to forego the movie.

Maybe we're at that point of a new friendship where we're more than willing to make a few allowances for each other in the hope that the friendship will develop deeper, given the chance. Dina said dinner was fine and we decided to go to Red Crab on Tomas Morato since she was coming from a dance rehearsal in GMA and I was taping in Phenomena on Timog Avenue.

For two talkers like us, an hour for dinner is way too short. I'm again trying to stick to a low-starch, low-carb diet. I had salad and grilled sirloin steak. Dina had the spicy crab cooked in coconut milk. I was impressed with how dedicated she was to her workout routine. If only I had half her exercise discipline, maybe I'd have half the chance to have a slim and taut body like hers.

Establishing trust

In a way, we could comfortably share the thrills and difficulties of talking for a living. But old habits die hard. Dina constantly reminded me that she hoped none of what she shared would come out, especially on "The Buzz." I was a bit offended with her wariness, but then again I told myself I should understand since we were just establishing our trust.

My associate producer called me even before we had our last few bites to inform me that Bernard was already at the location. Dina said she'd drop me off at my location so that my staff would know that I wasn't late on purpose and that

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Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Thursday, July 12, 2001)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES						
Aceltrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000	
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70.5	71.5	70	71	711,600	
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	36	36	200	
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	206	205	205	51,700	
Philippine National Bank	42	42	41	41	58,100	
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	20,500	
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	2,600	
FINANCIAL SERVICE						
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	30,000	
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000	
Manila Financial Corp.	1420	1425	1420	1420	910	
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1240	1240	1235	1240	3,380	
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION						
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	40	38.5	40	53,500	
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	690,000	
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	680	670	670	880	
Manila Bulletin Publ. Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.1	150,000	
Piltel	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	110,000	
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	70,000	
Phil. Long Dis' Tel Co.	695	705	695	705	38,190	
Veraniza Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	100,000	
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.035	0.033	0.036	44,300,000	

	POWER & ENERGY				
Manild Electric Co. A	30	38.5	36	36	8,800
Manila Electric Co. S	60	51.5	50	51	29,900
Peron Corp.	1.98	2.04	1.94	2.04	7,891,020
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.48	2.4	2.48	2,659,000
Keppe Phils. Marine Inc.	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.47	1,760,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	110,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.67	80,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	5,208,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	25,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.8	5	4.8	4.95	1,235,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	85,300
La Tondela Distillers Inc.	28	26.5	28	26.5	135,000
Pancake House Ind.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	2,247,000
RHM Corp.	2.06	2.2	2.04	2.14	11,247,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42.5	42	42	160,500
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	48	47.5	48	408,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	140,000
 HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con. Res & Hldg A	0.83	0.84	0.82	0.82	130,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	515,000
Abotuz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.48	247,000
Ajio Net Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.24	1.18	1.2	3,030,000
A. Sonang Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	1,340,000
Alcorn Gold Res Corp.	0.008	0.006	0.006	0.006	6,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000

ATN Holdings Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.12	2.12	35,000
Bacolod Done Indus Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.216	0.225	2,353,000
Boripes Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.82	1.78	1.82	2,353,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	1,260,000
Ebcorn Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.126	0.13	1,500,000
Firmez Dev. Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	70,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	600,000
Ionic Inc.	11	11	11	11	100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.05	2.04	2.06	100,000
Marinecon Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.7	0.73	0.73	0.73	680,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	3,130,000
Tandem Holdings Inc.	5.5	5	5.5	5.7	2,300,000
Unilever Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	550,000
Wexco Industries Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.9	1.94	1.88	1.86	70,000
Muthay Vinyl Corp.	0.58	0.7	0.68	0.68	140,000
Picp Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0925	0.09	0.09	500,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.84	0.88	0.86	0.86	170,000
SPi Technologies Inc.	15	15	14.25	14.25	118,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Bella Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	2,800,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.52	2,750,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	19	19	18	19	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philippine Racing Club	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	700
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Holdings Corp. (Pdr)	40	40.5	40	40.5	284,100
DMCI Holdings Inc. (Prl)	495	495	495	495	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank War	2.06	2.08	2.05	2.08	481,000
Oriental Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
PLDT 0% Pref Series N	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series J	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.022	80,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	370	370	370	370	120
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	2,728,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	530,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,130,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.14	2.1	2.14	322,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.04	2,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,329,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	400,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.008	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000

No tiene Razon

FRESH from a chilly San Francisco holiday, port services king Enrique Razon Jr. yesterday met with the analyst brigade who had been confused by his company's disclosures as to the real price ICTSI sold its overseas operations to Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing.

Ever *gracioso* despite the frosty market reception to the news of the buyout, Razon yesterday treated the stock market analysts—a number of whom do not know where their next meal would come from, given the state the market has sunk into—to a "rubbery chicken" (Razon's description, not ours) lunch at the Shangri-La Makati, before proceeding with the usual song-and-dance routine.

The 41-year-old Castilaloy chair and president of International Container Terminal Services Inc. began the spiel by gently mocking the native numbers-crunchers with "not knowing how to add," before rolling out fresh numbers.

With Razon himself now staking his name on the figures—he did not display his trademark nervous twitch that he normally exhibits when he is being parsimonious with the truth among friends—the stock floggers should now get a more accurate financial fix as to the state of affairs in ICTSI.

In any case, the bottom line is that when the combined equity-debt deal with the Hong Kong shipping tycoon shall have been concluded by June 15, 2002, ICTSI's pre-deal debt load of P17 billion "shall have been wiped out."

Before the Li Ka-shing deal, ICTSI's book value, by the company's own estimate, was P45 per share; the stock closed at P24.65 yesterday, after spurtin

COCKTAILS

By Victor C. Agustin



into developing a deep-sea port venture in Balangas.

"Compared to Argentina, this country is booming," Razon said, adding that he could not understand why so many Filipinos, including newspaper columnists (present company excluded), could be so negative about the prospects of this country.

"If you have nothing to contribute, stop bitching and belly-aching," he said, to the amazement of two suits from Metrobank.

To escape from the crippling vagaries of foreign exchange, Razon said the ICTSI has now changed its financing strategy for new port ventures away from lending up foreign debt on the parent company level to project financing at the local level plus some equity from the parent company.

Going back to his partnership with Li Ka-shing, it seemed that Razon's ICTSI and Li's Hutchison Whampoa have found a working synergy. ICTSI, which is good with deal-making and opening doors in Third World countries and Hutchison, which he said was good at mergers and acquisition, given its financial muscle.

"But then again, you need the likes of . . . without him, the market would have been truly dead," Razon said.

Razon maintained that he did not play the market himself, but that his advice, to those who could not resist gambling with it, is to play contrarian to whatever the cabal of players advise.

On a more positive note, Razon disclosed that he and Li Ka-shing had forged a partnership and that ICTSI and Hutchison Whampoa, who during the Ramos years were bitter competitors, were looking

One huge market that Razon would like to crack into is the United States, beginning with South Carolina.

"The United States loves to lecture about privatization, yet it has the most closed door as far as port privatization is concerned," he said.

Heard through the grapevine

ENRIQUE Razon Jr., who also subsidizes the metric Manila Standard, disclosed that he would be taking in a new "local" partner in his broadsheet for the equivalent of 10-percent equity.

In addition, the unnamed partner is also going to write a column, he said.

Contrary to the belief that the Soriano's own the paper's printing presses, Razon said he now controls both the press and the editorial side "100 percent."

(Cocktails may be reached by e-mail at cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktails_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Shares end up

(From page B1)

"Selling pressure has abated for some stocks and there's light buying, which caused a minor uptick," said Equitable PCI Bank fund manager Edison Yap.

Traders said selling pressure also eased follow-

ing the 0.6 percent rise of the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Wednesday.

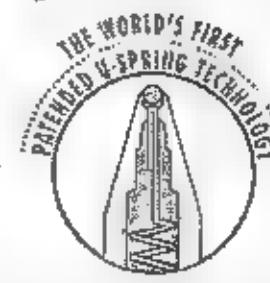
The continuing decline of the peso, though, may have caused the stock market's liquidity to drop further as investors shied away, traders

said. The dollar reached as high as P53.40 in morning trading, after closing at P53.065 Wednesday.

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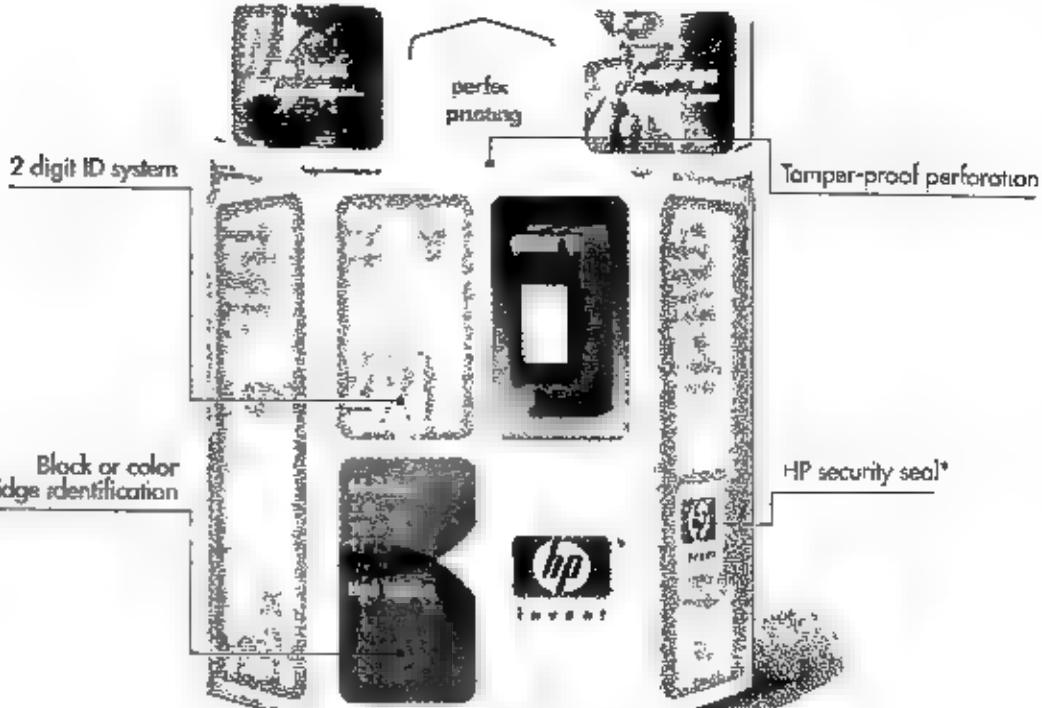
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ICTSI sets sight on building 60-hectare port in Batangas

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PUBLICLY listed port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. is considering a joint venture with Hutchison Ports Holdings, a subsidiary of Hong Kong based Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., for the multimillion-peso development of a 60-hectare private port in Batangas.

ICTSI chair Enrique Razon told reporters the company was also preparing to bid for five international ports.

"We may look at a new port on the road with (Hutchison Ports), probably Batangas. (We'll) do this on a 60-40 project," Razon said.

The cost to develop a deep-sea international port in Batangas would likely amount to P10 billion, he said.

He clarified, however, that issues involving the construction of a high-

way leading to Batuan would have to be settled first before the ICTSI-Hutchison project could take off.

ICTSI, together with some partners, already has 20 hectares in Batangas that it acquired four years ago. It needs another 40 hectares.

Razon also disclosed that ICTSI was eyeing contracts to operate five international ports in Kingston, Jamaica; Bandar Abas, Iran; Dunbar and Cape Town in South Africa; and Melbourne, Sydney.

Razon said ICTSI was bidding next month for the management of a Jamaican port that was handling containers of 1 million ton equivalent units. No date had yet been set for the privatization or bidding of the four other ports, he added.

Last month, minority shareholders of ICTSI agreed to sell their 49-percent

stake in ICTSI's international holding company to Hutchison Whampoa.

With this deal, Hutchison ended up controlling 74 percent of ICTSI International Holdings Corp. ICTSI agreed to sell to Hutchison International Port Holdings Ltd. its 25-percent stake in the holding firm.

Analysts expect ICTSI to generate around \$400 million to \$450 million in cash from the sale of its stake in IHIC, which operates eight container terminals in Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Tanzania and Thailand.

The deal excludes newly awarded port contracts in Suape, Brazil, which ICTSI still plans to pursue.

Razon said an ICTSI subsidiary, International Container Terminal Holdings Inc., still held 43.27 million preferred "B" shares representing 36

percent of the outstanding shares of IHIC.

He said ICTSI had given Hutchison the option to likewise buy its stake after one year.

ICTSI will also sell its interest in Ensanada Cruiseport Village SA, an operator of a Mexican cruise port, to Hutchison.

The other shareholders of IHIC are JP Morgan Capital LP, Sixty Wall Street Fund LP, Kase & Co., Capital International Global Emerging Markets Private Equity Fund LP and the ICTSI employees stock ownership plan.

Hutchison International Port holds and manages port and related services worldwide, operating a total of 136 berths in 19 ports together with a number of transportation-related service companies.

to retail tycoon Henry Sy's SM Prime to transfer four hectares of the San Lazaro property to SM Prime.

With a new SM shopping mall within the complex, Manila Jockey hopes to attract other developers and locators to invest in the area.

The company has long been planning to diversify into real estate development in anticipation of the sector's rebound.

Manila Jockey has also been under pressure to scout for alternative sources of revenues, as its earnings from racing activities continue to shrink with rising costs and declining patronage.

The race club is, however, still expected to continue holding horse races at the San Lazaro racetrack pending the completion of the new facility in Cavite.

Racing club signs deal to relocate San Lazaro

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

MANILA Jockey Club Inc., one of the country's oldest racing clubs, has signed a deal with KPI Land Corp. to complete earlier plans to move its San Lazaro racetrack out of Metro Manila.

After forging a deal with SM Prime Holdings Inc. to put up a shopping mall in a portion of its 16-hectare San Lazaro property, Manila Jockey enlisted KPI to develop a new, world-class racetrack in Carmona, Cavite.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Manila Jockey said the deal would jumpstart the development of the San Lazaro racetrack into a mixed-use commercial complex.

Manila Jockey earlier forged a deal to sell a real estate holding unit

Canlas sees 6.9% inflation this month

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

INFLATION would likely move up slightly this month, to 6.8 percent from 6.7 percent in June, due to higher food prices and related damages on domestic farm products, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday.

In an interview, Canlas forecast a rate of 6.9 percent this quarter, up from 6.8 percent.

"Preliminary estimates for July point to an inflation of 6.8 to 6.9 percent," Canlas, who heads the National Economic and Development Authority, told reporters.

He expressed confidence, however, that the government would meet its full-year inflation of a 6 to 7 percent target.

Inflation refers to a sustained increase in the prices of basic commodities and services that result in a decrease in the purchasing power of money.

A surge in food and fuel prices combined with pressures from the peso depreciation and school year opening expenditures jacked up the country's annual inflation rate to 6.7 percent last month from 6.5 percent in May.

Canlas said Typhoon Feria, one of the strongest to hit the country in 20 years, was pushing up the prices of fruits and vegetables, but its impact would eventually taper off in the coming months.

Canlas took comfort in the fact that the prices of rice and corn, the country's staples, remained stable. "There was no major destruction in rice and corn, and a lot of the rice was harvested in April," he noted.

Milk prices, however, have been rising because of the peso's depreciation against the dollar. The country imports its dairy requirements, including milk.

Canlas said the impact of a 40-centavo-per-liter hike in petroleum prices in May should hit the economy starting this month, but he stressed it was unlikely to have significant effect.

He said transport fares and wages, which had a more direct impact on inflation, had not moved.

Subic Bay investments hit P1.1B

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

INVESTMENTS in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone hit P1.1 billion in the first six months, way off the P8.5-billion annual target set by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority over the next five years.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo Jr. said the SBMA was still sticking to its P42.5-billion cumulative investment target by 2005 as he expected capital inflows to improve substantially starting next year.

Payumo said the local political crisis and the global economic slowdown had tempered businessmen's appetite for new and expansion projects this year.

"We expected investments to go up and down within the next five years, but we are still confident we would hit our target by 2005," Payumo said.

He said the SBMA had moved to change its development strategy for Subic by forging a closer alliance with the Clark Special Economic Zone and letting the private sector take the lead in developing parts of the former American naval base.

Payumo said more investors would take more interest in the former American bases with the proposed Subic-Clark expressway, which would substantially cut down travel time between the two economic zones that would enable investors in both to take advantage of Subic's deep sea harbor and Clark's international airport.

SBMA is developing two port terminal projects and expanding the existing port that will allow the Subic Port to handle all kinds of cargo.

SBMA is looking at a rebound in investments by next year with the agency's decision to invite multinational corporations to establish their regional headquarters in Subic.

SBMA's projected investments of at least \$850 million (P42.5 billion) from 2001 to 2005 is 20 percent of what the agency has generated since taking over Subic in 1992. At least 55 percent of the projected investments would come from foreign investors.

The bulk of the investments or P3.5 billion a year would go to real estate development projects particularly for hotel-resorts and the proposed convention center and eco-tourism development project.

An estimated P3 billion a year would go to infotech projects, tourism and utility concerns. Roughly P1.81 billion in new investments would go to manufacturing concerns, particularly for light assembly electronics.

These investments are expected to create 12,500 new jobs by 2005 and exports are likely to more than double to \$2.1 billion by 2005 from \$1 billion this year.

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RP sees trade deals with Taiwan

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINES is willing to give concessions in fishery and investments to Taipei in exchange for greater access of Philippine agricultural products to Taiwan.

This was revealed yesterday by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II in his opening statement in the 9th Manila-Taipei Joint Economic Conference.

Roxas expressed confidence that the Philippines and Taiwan could make breakthroughs in enhancing their economic ties and narrow down the differences in their relations during the two-day discussions.

Roxas said the Philippines was

eager to conclude a double taxation agreement with Taiwan; adopt a more simplified and streamlined process in the grant of visas to Taiwanese businessmen and tourists; approve the Manila-Taipei ATA Carnet Protocol; and craft a mutually beneficial cooperation agreement on the sea lane for fishing vessels.

Taiwanese businessmen have long complained about the double taxation issue in the Philippines that other Asean countries have addressed. The Carnet Protocol will allow duty-free importation of Taiwanese commodities into the Philippines provided they are re-exported. Diplomatic relation between the Philippines and Taiwan has been

stirred by the poaching of Taiwanese fishermen in Philippine territory.

In return for the concessions, Roxas said the Philippines would ask Taiwan to speed up the resolution of sanitary issues affecting Philippine fresh bananas and young coconut. "Philippine agriculture officials are ready to discuss and agree on a timetable with their Taiwanese counterparts to ensure that progressive developments on these quarantine issues could be made by the next conference meeting."

Roxas is also offering the Philippines as a production base for Taiwan's agriculture requirements, specifically through contract-farm-

ing arrangement in Northern Luzon. "The availability of land and labor in the Philippines plus the marketing skills and technology of Taiwan's agriculture sector could combine to solve the rising cost of agricultural production in Taiwan," Roxas said.

Roxas also expressed keen interest in boosting tourism cooperation between the two countries by forming a joint venture for the development of tourism facilities.

Taiwan is currently the 5th biggest export market and import source of the Philippines. Two-way trade between Taiwan and the Philippines has been increasing 24.4 percent annually in the last five years.

Tollway project seen to get \$791M in loan

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority is expected to clinch a 41.931 billion yen (about \$791.151 million) loan deal with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the construction of the 89-kilometer Subic-Clark toll road.

This was disclosed by BCDA Chair Rogelio Singson, who said the requirements set by the Department of Finance for the grant of a sovereign guarantee for the JBIC loan were now being completed.

The Development Bank of the Philippines earlier granted BCDA a P1-billion loan to finance the acquisition of the right of way for the project. Singson said the proceeds of the DBP loan

would be released soon.

This is the first time BCDA is securing an official development assistance (ODA), Singson said. He said BCDA was confident it could complete all the DOF requirements within the third quarter of the year.

The 89-kilometer toll road project will link the seaport of Subic to the airport facilities of Clark. The linkage is expected to create a new economic growth corridor to benefit the entire Central Luzon.

This is in line with the Subic-Clark Alliance Development Program, Singson said.

BCDA has started the final alignment survey works on this flagship project, Singson added.

Cebu Pacific starts int'l flights in Oct.

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

CEBU Pacific Air is set to start flying international in October.

"We already have an agreement with US-based Pegasus Aviation Inc., one of the world's largest leasing companies, for the lease of two 200-seater B757s, with an option to lease additional aircraft, plus an option to upgrade to bigger aircraft," Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei said.

The Gokongwei-owned firm is also confident that it will get a good share of the international aviation arena.

"We are primarily a great value airline. The definition of value may change as the market changes or expands, but Cebu Pacific is always ready to adapt and be receptive to these changes," Gokongwei said. However, the company has yet to finalize its overseas destinations.

Cebu Pacific got a temporary operating permit to fly international scheduled flights from the Civil Aeronautics Board early last month.

The airline, however, has yet to secure the Civil Aeronautics Board's and President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval of its final destinations.

"For Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Guam, we already got the President's approval. We just have to wait for this to be transmitted to these countries," Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs Peggy Vera said in an earlier interview.

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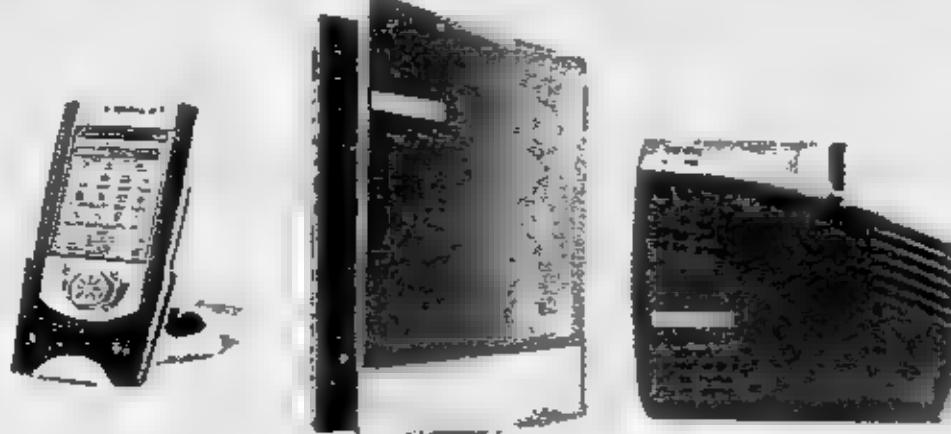


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Republic of the Philippines COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

PRESENT:

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.	BENIPAYO, Alfredo, L. TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G. JAVIER, Rufino S.B. LANTION, Ralph C. SADAIN, Mehol K. BORRA, Resurreccion Z. TLASON, Jr. Florentina A.	Chairman Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner
		Promulgated: 11 July 2001.

RESOLUTION NO. 4502

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 8734 as amended by Republic Act No. 9054 and other pertinent election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following Rules and Regulations to govern the plebiscite to ratify the amendments to the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Declaration of intent. - The plebiscite to ratify the amendments to the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is a non-partisan political activity.

Section 2. Date and places of plebiscite. - The plebiscite shall be held on August 14, 2001, in the following places:

Region	Province	City
IV	Palewan Basilan Tawi-Tawi	Puerto Princesa City Isabela City
V	Zamboanga del Norte	Dapitan City Dipolog City Zamboanga City Pegadian City
VI	Zamboanga del Sur	
VII	Zamboanga Sibugay Sulu	Digos City Gen. Santos City Koronadal City
XI	Davao del Sur South Cotabato	Kidapawan City Iligan City Marawi City
XII	Sarangani North Cotabato Lanao del Norte Lanao del Sur Sultan Kudarat Maguindanao	Tacurong City Cotabato City

Section 3. Plebiscite and campaign periods. - The plebiscite period shall be for sixty (60) days commencing on June 30, 2001 and ending on August 29, 2001.

The campaign period shall commence forty-five (45) days before the plebiscite or on June 30, 2001 and end at midnight of August 12, 2001.

Campaigning shall not be allowed on August 13, 2001 and on August 14, 2001.

ARTICLE II CAMPAIGN AND PROPAGANDA MATERIALS

Section 4. Supervision by the Commission. - The Commission on Elections (Commission) shall supervise the campaign, the distribution of propaganda materials and the use and employment of press, radio and television facilities so as to give all proponents and oppositors, whether as individuals or as groups, equal opportunity under equal circumstances to make known their stand on the issues within the limits allowed by law.

Section 5. Assembly meeting or "pulong-pulong". - (a) Every barangay within the plebiscite areas shall hold at least one assembly meeting or "pulong-pulong" during the campaign period under the supervision of the Election Officer to enlighten the voters on the amendments to the Organic Act to be voted upon in the plebiscite.

If one meeting will not be sufficient, the barangay officials may hold as many meetings or "pulong-pulong" as may be adequate for the purpose herein stated. All Provincial Election Supervisors shall see to it that this provision is complied with, within their respective areas of supervision.

- (b) The puulong barangay or his duly authorized representative shall:
 - 1. Act as presiding officer or moderator during the meeting;
 - 2. See to it that the discussions and debates are free and constructive and that speakers for both the affirmative and negative sides of the question are given equal opportunity and time to expound on their views;
 - 3. Invite speakers or resource persons from both private and public sectors, who are knowledgeable on the plebiscite issues for the enlightenment of the registered voters in the barangay. Any barangay member shall be free to ask questions and voice his opinion on any side of the plebiscite question; and
 - 4. Certify in writing that a "pulong-pulong" in the barangay has been held. It shall state the date and place of the meeting, the number of persons who attended and the names of resource speakers, if any. Said certification shall be submitted to the Election Officer.

The Election Officer shall report to the Commission by telegram, through the Education and Information Department, within three days after the campaign period, the number of "pulong-pulong" held in every barangay in his jurisdiction.

Section 6. Applicability of COMELEC Resolution No. 3626. - The provisions of COMELEC Resolution No. 3626 implementing Republic Act No. 8006, otherwise known as Fair Election Act, promulgated on March 1, 2001 shall, insofar as applicable, apply.

Section 7. Right of government officials and employees to express opinion for or against the ratification. - All government officials and employees, as well as those in government-owned or controlled corporations with original charters, who are residing or holding office in the provinces or cities where the plebiscite shall be held, may publicly express their opinion on any of the issues related to the plebiscite during the campaign period.

Section 8. Prohibition on COMELEC officials, employees and its deputies. - In order to maintain the independent and non-partisan status of the Commission, its Chairman, Commissioners, officials, employees and deputies are prohibited from publicly expressing their views and opinion on, and from campaigning for or against, the ratification of the amendments to the Organic Act.

ARTICLE III PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES

Section 9. Precincts and polling places. - For purposes of the August 14, 2001 plebiscite, the precincts established and the grouping scheme as adopted in the May 14, 2001 National and Local elections shall be used.

ARTICLE IV PLEBISCITE COMMITTEE

Section 10. Plebiscite committee. - There shall be a Plebiscite Committee composed of three (3) members who must be public school teachers and who shall conduct the plebiscite in the polling place for each precinct or grouped precincts. The district supervisor concerned shall submit to the Election Officer, the list of teachers recommended as members of the Plebiscite Committee with the plurality of positions as supporting document to show the rank of each recommendation. The highest-ranking teacher shall be appointed as chairman.

In case there are not enough public school teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the civil service, or other citizens of known probity and competence, who are registered voters of the province/city may be appointed for plebiscite duty in the order given.

The Commission shall constitute, through the Election Officer, the Plebiscite Committee not later than July 14, 2001.

Section 11. Qualifications of members of the plebiscite committee. - The chairman and members of the Plebiscite Committee or their substitutes must:

- (a) Be of good moral character and of irreproachable reputation;
- (b) Have never been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six (6) months of imprisonment;
- (c) Have no pending information for any election offense against them; and
- (d) Know how to read and write English or the local dialect.

Section 12. Disqualifications. - No person shall serve as chairman or member of a Plebiscite Committee if he is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same committee.

Section 13. Powers and duties of the plebiscite committee. - The Plebiscite Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Supervise and conduct the voting in the polling place on August 14, 2001;
- (b) Count the votes and thereafter prepare the plebiscite results;
- (c) Deliver the books of voters and lists of voters to the Election Officer for custody and safekeeping not later than August 18, 2001;
- (d) Furnish watchers signed certificates of votes up to and immediately below the English version;
- (e) Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the plebiscite in the polling places wherein they are assigned to ensure the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible plebiscite.

The Plebiscite Committee shall have full authority to maintain order within the polling place and its premises, to keep access thereto open and unobstructed, and to enforce obedience to its lawful orders.

If any person shall refuse to obey lawful orders of the Plebiscite Committee or shall conduct himself in a disorderly manner in its presence or within its hearing and thereby interrupts or disturbs its proceedings, the Plebiscite Committee may issue an order in writing directing any peace officer to take such person into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, but such officer shall not be required to do so if he is not present.

The Plebiscite Committee shall have full authority to maintain order within the polling place and its premises, to keep access thereto open and unobstructed, and to enforce obedience to its lawful orders.

peace officer to whom it may be delivered, but if none is present, by any other person deputized by the Committee in writing; and

- (f) Perform such other functions/duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.

Section 14. Term of office. - The term of the Plebiscite Committee must meet, all the positions in the committee are vacant, or if not one of the appointed members shall appear, the watchers present may, in writing, designate non-partisan registered voters of the precinct in act in the place of the absent members until they shall appear or the vacancies are filled. Such appointments and the names of the appointees shall be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Section 15. Proceedings of the plebiscite committee. - The meeting of the Plebiscite Committee shall be public and shall be held only in the polling place designated by the Commission.

Section 16. Functioning of the plebiscite committee. - The Plebiscite Committee shall act through the chairman and shall decide without delay by majority vote all questions which may arise in the performance of its duties.

ARTICLE V LISTS OF VOTERS AND BOOK OF VOTERS

Section 17. Lists of voters. - The Election Officer shall print two (2) copies of the revised CVL Form 2 and four (4) copies of CVL Report 1-B, all of which shall be certified by the Election Registration Board. The two copies of CVL Form 2 and two (2) copies of CVL Report 1-B shall be given to the Plebiscite Committees for use on plebiscite day. The other two (2) copies of CVL Report 1-B shall be distributed as follows:

- (a) One copy for posting at the office of the Election Officer; and
- (b) One copy for posting at the bulletin board of the municipal hall.

Section 18. Posting of the CVL. - The Election Officer shall post the CVL Report 1-B on July 15, 2001 in his office and in the bulletin boards of the municipality.

The Plebiscite Committee shall post one (1) copy of CVL Report 1-B at the polling place on plebiscite day before the opening of the polls.

Section 19. Notification, inspection, verification and sealing of the book of voters. - The Election Registration Boards shall, starting July 10, 2001 until July 14, 2001, notify representatives of proponents and oppositors and the Plebiscite Committees to inspect and verify the completeness of the Voter Registration Records of each precinct compiled in the books of voters.

The Plebiscite Committees and the representatives of proponents and oppositors shall, starting July 15, 2001 until July 30, 2001, inspect, verify and certify as to the completeness of the Voter Registration Records in the precinct book of voters. The Election Registration Board shall seal the books of voters in the presence of the representatives of the proponents and oppositors and the Plebiscite Committees. All books of voters must be sealed not later than July 30, 2001 and shall not be available for examination by the public. They shall remain in the custody of the Election Officer who shall deliver the same to the chairman of the Plebiscite Committees when they secure the official ballots and other paraphernalia on plebiscite day.

ARTICLE VI PLEBISCITE FORMS AND SUPPLIES

Section 20. Forms and supplies. - The Plebiscite Committee shall be provided with the following documents, forms and supplies for use on plebiscite day:

FORMS	TITLE	RATE OF DISTRIBUTION
CEF NO. 3	Poster Indicating Precinct Number	1 piece
CEF NO. 5 & SA	Appointment of Plebiscite Committee	9 pieces
CEF NO. 8	Plebiscite Official Ballots	1 piece per reg. voter plus 3 per grouped precinct
CEF NO. 9	Plebiscite Returns	1 set of 4 copies
CEF NO. 10	Tally Board	1 place
CEF NO. 11	Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	1 set of 2 copies
CEF NO. 12	Paper Seals	16 pieces
CEF NO. 12-A	Paper Seal for Book of Voters	1 place
CEF NO. 13	Certificate of Votes for Watcher	10 sheets
CEF NO. 14	Certificate of Receipt of Plebiscite Ballots, Other Forms and Supplies by Plebiscite Committee	3 pieces
CEF NO. 27-A	Official Receipt of Plebiscite Returns for Plebiscite Committee	2 pieces

SPECIAL ENVELOPES

CEF NO. 15	Envelope for Counted Official Ballots	1 piece
CEF NO. 16	Envelope for Excess/Marked/Spoiled/Unused Ballots	1 piece
CEF NO. 17-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the PBC/CBC	1 piece
CEF NO. 17-B-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the COMELEC	1 piece
CEF NO. 17-C-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the Citizens' Arm	1 piece
CEF NO. 17-F-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the DILG	1 piece
CEF NO. 18 & 18-A	Envelope for Minutes of Voting & Counting of Votes	2 pieces
CEF NO. 19	Envelope for Key to Ballot Box - EO	1 piece
CEF NO. 28	Envelope for Plebiscite Official Ballots	1 piece

CANVASSING FORMS

CEF NO. 26	Certificate of Canvass Statement of Votes by Precinct	1 set of 5 copies
CEF NO. 26-A	Statement of Votes by Province/City/Municipality	1 set of 3 copies
CEF NO. 26-B, B-1 to B-4	Envelope for CEF 26 & CEF 26-A	1 set of 3 copies
		1 set of 5 copies

SUPPLIES

ITEMS	RATE OF DISTRIBUTION
Ballot Box	1 piece
Padlocks with Key	3 pieces
Fixed Length Seal	2 pieces
Ballpen	13 pieces
Bond Paper Long	2 pieces
Thumbprint Taker	5 sheets
Carbon Paper	6 pieces
Rubber Band	2 bundles
Ballot	



Republic of the Philippines COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila
PRESENT

**RULES AND REGULATIONS
GOVERNING THE
PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE
AMENDMENTS TO THE
ORGANIC ACT FOR THE
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO.**

BENIFAYO, Alfredo, L., Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G., Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B., Commissioner
LANTON, Hélio C., Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehal K., Commissioner
BORRA, Resurrección Z., Commissioner
TUASON, Jr. Florentino A., Commissioner

Promulgated: 11 July 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 4502

The Commission on Elections by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code Republic Act No. 6734 as amended by Republic Act No. 9054 and other pertinent election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following Rules and Regulations to govern the plebiscite to ratify the amendments to the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Declaration of policy. - The plebiscite to ratify the amendments to the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is a non-partisan political activity.

Sec. 2. Date and places of plebiscite. - The plebiscite shall be held on August 14, 2001, in the following places:

Region	Province	City
IV	Palawan	Puerto Princesa City
X	Basilan	Isabela City
	Tawi-Tawi	
	Zamboanga del Norte	Dapitan City
	Zamboanga del Sur	Dipolog City
	Zamboanga Sibugay	Zamboanga City
XI	Sulu	Pagadian City
	Davao del Sur	
	South Cotabato	Digos City
XII	Surigao del Norte	Gen. Santos City
	North Cotabato	Koronadal City
	Lanao del Norte	
	Lanao del Sur	Kidapawan City
	Sultan Kudarat	Marew City
	Maguindanao	Tacurong City
		Cotabato City

Sec. 3. Plebiscite and campaign period. - The plebiscite period shall be for sixty (60) days commencing on June 30, 2001 and ending on August 29, 2001.

The campaign period shall commence forty-five (45) days before the plebiscite or on June 30, 2001 and end at midnight of August 12, 2001.

Campaigning shall not be allowed on August 13, 2001 and on August 14, 2001.

ARTICLE II CAMPAIGN AND PROPAGANDA MATERIALS

Sec. 4. Supervision by the Commission. - The Commission on Elections (Commission) shall supervise the campaign, the distribution of propaganda materials and the use and employment of press, radio and television facilities so as to give all proponents and opponents, whether as individuals or as groups, equal opportunity under equal circumstances to make known their stand on the issues within the limits allowed by law.

Sec. 5. Assembly meeting or "puulong-pulong". - (a) Every barangay within the plebiscite areas shall hold at least one assembly meeting or "puulong-pulong" during the campaign period under the supervision of the Election Officer to enlighten the voters on the amendments to the Organic Act to be voted upon in the plebiscite.

If one meeting will not be sufficient, the barangay officials may hold as many meetings or "puulong-pulong" as may be adequate for the purpose herein stated.

All Provincial Election Supervisors shall see to it that this provision is complied with, within their respective areas of supervision.

- (b) The puulong barangay or his duly authorized representative shall:
 - 1. Act as presiding officer or moderator during the meeting;
 - 2. See to it that the discussions and debates are free and constructive and that speakers for both the affirmative and negative sides of the questions are given equal opportunity and time to expound on their views;
 - 3. Invite speakers or resource persons from both private and public sectors, who are knowledgeable on the plebiscite issues for the enlightenment of the registered voters in the barangay. Any barangay member shall be free to ask questions and voice his opinion on any side of the plebiscite question; and
 - 4. Certify in writing that a "puulong-pulong" in the barangay has been held, shall state the date and place of the meeting, the number of persons who attended and the names of resource speakers, if any. Said certification shall be submitted to the Election Officer.

The Election Officer shall report to the Commission by telegram, through the Education and Information Department, within three days after the campaign period, the number of "puulong-pulong" held in every barangay in his jurisdiction.

Sec. 6. Applicability of COMELEC Resolution No. 3638. - The provisions of COMELEC Resolution No. 3638 implementing Republic Act No. 9006, otherwise known as Fair Election Act, promulgated on March 1, 2001 shall, insofar as applicable, apply.

Sec. 7. Right of government officials and employees to express opinion for or against the ratification. - All government officials and employees, as well as those in government-owned or controlled corporations with original charters, who are residing or holding office in the provinces or cities where the plebiscite shall be held, may publicly express their opinion on any of the issues related to the plebiscite during the campaign period.

Sec. 8. Conduct. - In order to maintain the independent and non-partisan status of the Commission, its Chairman, Commissioners, officials, employees and deputies are prohibited from publicly expressing their views and opinion on, and from campaigning for or against, the ratification of the amendments to the Organic Act.

ARTICLE III PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES

Sec. 9. Precincts and polling places. - For purposes of the August 14, 2001 plebiscite, the precincts established and the grouping scheme as adopted in the May 14, 2001 National and Local elections shall be used.

ARTICLE IV PLEBISCITE COMMITTEE

Sec. 10. Plebiscite committee. - There shall be a Plebiscite Committee composed of three (3) members who must be public school teachers and who shall conduct the plebiscite in the polling place for each precinct or grouped precincts. The district supervisor concerned shall submit to the Election Officer, the list of teachers recommended as members of the Plebiscite Committee with the plurality of positions as supporting document to show the rank of each recommendee. The highest-ranking teacher shall be appointed as chairman.

In case there are not enough public school teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the civil service, or other citizens of known probity and competence, who are registered voters of the provinciality may be appointed for plebiscite duty in the order given.

The Commission shall constitute, through the Election Officers, the Plebiscite Committees not later than July 14, 2001.

Sec. 11. Qualifications of members of the plebiscite committee. - The chairman and members of the Plebiscite Committee or their substitutes must:

- (a) Be of good moral character and of irreproachable reputation;
- (b) Have never been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six (6) months of imprisonment;
- (c) Have no pending information for any election offense against them; and
- (d) Know how to read and write English or the local dialect.

Sec. 12. Disqualification. - No person shall serve as chairman or member of a Plebiscite Committee if he is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same committee.

Sec. 13. Powers and duties of the plebiscite committee. - The Plebiscite Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Supervise and conduct the voting in the polling place on August 14, 2001;
- (b) Count the votes and thereafter prepare the plebiscite returns;
- (c) Deliver the books of voters and lists of voters to the Election Officer for custody and safekeeping not later than August 16, 2001;
- (d) Furnish watchers signed manifestoes of voters upon which to cast, and
- (e) Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the plebiscite in the polling places wherein they are assigned to ensure the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible plebiscite.

The Plebiscite Committee shall have full authority to maintain order within the polling place and its premises, to keep access thereto open and unobstructed, and to enforce obedience to its lawful orders.

If any person shall refuse to obey lawful orders of the Plebiscite Committee or shall conduct himself in a disorderly manner in its presence or within its hearing and thereby interrupt or disrupt its proceedings the Plebiscite Committee may issue an order in writing directing any peace officer to take such person into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, and when such law is not be enforced, to refer the same to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

peace officer to whom it may be delivered, but if none is present, by any other person deputized by the Committee in writing; and

- (f) Perform such other functions/duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.

Sec. 14. Temporary designation of members of the plebiscite committee. - At the time the Plebiscite Committee must meet all the positions in the committee are vacant, or if not one of the appointed members shall appear, the watchers present may, in writing, designate non-partisan registered voters of the precinct to act in the place of the absent members until they shall appear or the vacancies are filled. Such appointments and the names of the appointees shall be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 15. Proceedings of the plebiscite committee. - The meeting of the Plebiscite Committee shall be public and shall be held only in the polling place designated by the Commission.

Sec. 16. Functioning of the plebiscite committee. - The Plebiscite Committee shall act through the chairman and shall decide without delay by majority vote all questions which may arise in the performance of its duties.

ARTICLE V LISTS OF VOTERS AND BOOK OF VOTERS

Sec. 17. Lists of Voters. - The Election Officer shall print two (2) copies of the revised CVL Form 2 and four (4) copies of CVL Report 1-B, all of which shall be certified by the Election Registration Board. The two copies of CVL Form 2 and two (2) copies of CVL Report 1-B shall be given to the Plebiscite Committees for use on plebiscite day. The other two (2) copies of CVL Report 1-B shall be distributed as follows:

- (a) One copy for posting at the office of the Election Officer; and
- (b) One copy for posting at the bulletin board of the municipal hall.

Sec. 18. Posting of the CVL. - The Election Officer shall post the CVL Report 1-B on July 15, 2001 in his office and in the bulletin boards of the municipality hall. The Plebiscite Committee shall post one (1) copy of CVL Report 1-B at the polling place on plebiscite day before the opening of the polls.

Sec. 19. Notification, inspection, verification and sealing of the book of voters. - The Election Registration Boards shall, starting July 10, 2001 until July 14, 2001 notify representatives of proponents and opponents and the Plebiscite Committees to inspect and verify the completeness of the Voter Registration Records of each precinct.

The Plebiscite Committees and the representatives of proponents and opponents shall, starting July 15, 2001 until July 30, 2001, inspect, verify and certify as to the completeness of the Voter Registration Records in the precinct book of voters. The Election Registration Board shall seal the books of voters in the presence of the representatives of the proponents and opponents and the Plebiscite Committees. All books of voters must be sealed not later than July 30, 2001 and shall not be available for examination by the public. They shall remain in the custody of the Election Officer who shall deliver the same to the chairman of the Plebiscite Committees when they secure the official ballots and other paraphernalia on plebiscite day.

ARTICLE VI PLEBISCITE FORMS AND SUPPLIES

Sec. 20. Forms and supplies. - The Plebiscite Committee shall be provided with the following documents, forms and supplies for use on plebiscite day:

FORMS	TITLE	RATE OF DISTRIBUTION
CEF NO. 3	Poster Indicating Precinct Number	1 piece
CEF NO. 5 & 5A	Appointment of Plebiscite Committee	9 pieces
CEF NO. 8	Plebiscite Official Ballots	1 piece per reg. voter plus 3 per grouped precinct
CEF NO. 9	Tally Board	1 set of 4 copies
CEF NO. 10	Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	1 piece
CEF NO. 11	Paper Seal	1 set of 2 copies
CEF NO. 12	Paper Seal for Book of Voters	16 pieces
CEF NO. 12-A	Certificate of Votes for Watcher	1 piece
CEF NO. 13	Certificate of Receipt of Plebiscite Ballots	10 sheets
CEF NO. 14	Other Forms and Supplies by Plebiscite Committee	3 pieces
CEF NO. 27 A	Official Receipt of Plebiscite Returns for PBC	2 pieces

SPECIAL ENVELOPES

CEF NO. 15	Envelope for Counted Official Ballots	1 piece
CEF NO. 16	Envelope for Excess/Marked/Spoiled/Unused Ballots	1 piece
CEF NO. 17-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the PBC/CBC	1 piece
17-8-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the COMELEC	1 piece
CEF NO. 17-D-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the Citizens Arm	1 piece
CEF NO. 17-F-1	Envelope for Plebiscite Returns copy for the Ballot Box	1 piece
CEF NO. 18 & 18-A	Envelope for Minutes of Voting & Counting of Votes	2 pieces
CEF NO. 19	Envelope for Key to Ballot Box - EO	1 piece
CEF NO. 28	Envelope for Plebiscite Official Ballots	1 piece

OTHER FORMS

Election Watchers I.D. In Polling Place General Instructions for Plebiscite Committee on Plebiscite Day	2 pieces 3 copies
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CANVASSING FORMS

CEF NO. 26	Certificate of Canvass	1 set of 5 copies
CEF NO. 26-A	Statement of Votes by Precinct	1 set of 3 copies
CEF NO. 26-A	Statement of Votes by Province/City/Municipality	1 set of 3 copies
CEF NO. 26-B, B-1 to B-4	Envelope for CEF 26 & CEF 26-A	1 set of 5 copies

SUPPLIES

ITEMS	RATE OF DISTRIBUTION
Ballot Box	1 piece
Padlocks with Key	3 pieces
Fixed Length Seal	2 pieces
Salpen	13 pieces
Bond Paper Long	2 pieces
Thumbprint Taker	5 sheets
Carbon Paper	6 pieces
Rubber Band	10 pieces

No voter shall be allowed to vote as illiterate or physically disabled unless such fact is indicated in his Voter Registration Record or the fact of his disability is apparent from his physical condition.

Sec. 34. Challenge of illegal voters. - Any voter or watcher may challenge any person presenting himself to vote for:

- (a) not being registered;
- (b) using the name of another; or
- (c) suffering from existing disqualification.

Challenges shall be in writing submitted to the Plebiscite Committee.

The Plebiscite Committee shall satisfy itself as to whether or not there is valid basis for the challenge by requiring proof relative to the registration, identity or qualification of the voter.

Sec. 35. Challenge based on certain legal acts. - Any voter or watcher may challenge any person presenting himself to vote on the ground that the challenged person has:

- (a) received or expects to receive, has paid, offered or promised to pay, has contributed, offered or promised to contribute money or anything of value as consideration for his vote or for the vote of another;
- (b) made a bet or is interested directly or indirectly in the bet which depends upon the result of the plebiscite.

The challenged person shall take an oath before the Plebiscite Committee that he has not committed any of the acts alleged. Upon the taking of such oath, the challenge shall be dismissed and the voter shall be allowed to vote. However, in case he refuses to take such oath, the challenge shall be sustained and he shall not be allowed to vote.

Sec. 36. Record of challenges and oaths. - The poll clerk shall record in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes all challenges, protests, oaths and resolutions of the Plebiscite Committee in each case.

Sec. 37. Disposition of unused ballots at the close of the voting hours. - At the close of voting, all unused ballots shall be torn in half lengthwise by the Chairman in the presence of the other members of the Plebiscite Committee and the watchers. One half of the torn ballots shall be placed inside the envelope for unused ballots, which shall be sealed and submitted to the Election Officer for safekeeping. It shall remain sealed unless the Commission orders otherwise. The other half of the torn ballots shall be placed in the corresponding envelope and deposited inside the ballot box compartment for spoiled ballots. Such fact shall be entered in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

ARTICLE VIII COUNTING OF VOTES

Sec. 38. Counting to be public and without interruption. - As soon as the voting is finished, the Plebiscite Committee shall publicly count in the polling place the votes cast and ascertain the results. The Plebiscite Committee shall not adjourn or postpone or delay the count until it has been fully completed, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Sec. 39. Transfer of venue of counting. - If on account of force majeure, rebellion, violence, terrorism, disorder or similar causes or imminent danger thereof, the counting of votes cannot be made in the polling place designated by the Commission for the plebiscite, counting may be transferred to the nearest safe barangay or school building in the municipality upon unanimous approval of the members of the Plebiscite Committee and with the concurrence of the majority of the watchers present.

Such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. The members of the Plebiscite Committee and watchers present shall manifest their approval and concurrence by affixing their signatures in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

The Plebiscite Committee shall ensure the safety and integrity of the election documents and paraphernalia by requiring the PNPAFF in the areas to provide adequate security and transport facilities to the members of the Plebiscite Committee and the election documents and paraphernalia during transfer and counting of votes.

The Plebiscite Committee shall post a notice at a conspicuous place outside the polling place indicating the place where the counting of votes is transferred.

Sec. 40. Preliminaries to the counting of votes. - (a) The chairman, the poll clerk and the third member shall assume such positions as to provide the watchers and the public as may be conveniently accommodated in the polling place, an unimpeded view of the ballots being read by the chairman and of the plebiscite returns and the tally board being simultaneously accomplished by the poll clerk and the third member respectively. However, the watchers and the public shall not be allowed to touch any of these plebiscite documents. The table to be used by the Plebiscite Committee shall be cleared of all unnecessary writing paraphernalia. Any violation of this requirement shall constitute an election offense punishable under Sections 263 and 264 of the Omnibus Election Code.

(b) The Plebiscite Committee shall open the ballot box, take out the ballots from the compartment for valid ballots and examine them using the following guidelines:

1. Ballots folded together. - Without unfolding the ballots or exposing their contents, the Plebiscite Committee shall ascertain that each fold consists of a single ballot.

If in the course of the examination, ballots are found folded together before they were deposited in the ballot box, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess ballots.

2. Excess ballots. - The Plebiscite Committee shall then count the ballots and compare the number of ballots with the number of voters who actually voted.

If there are excess ballots, all of the ballots shall be returned to the compartment and thoroughly mixed therein. The poll clerk, without looking at the contents of the ballots and with his back to the box, shall publicly draw out as many ballots as may be equal to the excess and place them in the proper envelope. They shall not be read during the counting of votes.

3. Ballots with detachable coupons. - In case ballots with their detachable coupons still attached should be found, such coupons shall be removed and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots. The ballots shall be included in the pile of valid ballots.

4. Ballots with the word "spoiled". - If ballots with the word "spoiled" should be found, they shall be placed in the compartment for spoiled ballots.

The ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots shall be presumed to be spoiled, whether or not they contain such notation.

But if a valid ballot was erroneously deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots during the voting, the Plebiscite Committee shall open said compartment after voting and before counting for the sole purpose of drawing out the ballot erroneously deposited therein. Such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes. The valid ballots so withdrawn shall be mixed with the other valid ballots.

5. Marked ballots. - The Plebiscite Committee shall unfold the ballots and determine whether there are any marked ballots.

If any should be found, the Chairman shall write the word "marked" at the back of the ballots, and place the same in the envelope for marked ballots. Said ballots shall not be read during the counting of votes. A majority vote of the Plebiscite Committee shall be sufficient to resolve the question of whether a ballot is marked or not.

(c) The valid ballots shall then be separated in piles of one hundred ballots, each held together by a rubber band.

(d) The poll clerk shall take hold of the plebiscite returns and the third member shall tack the tally board on the blackboard or any available space within the plain view of the Plebiscite Committee, watchers and the public.

Sec. 41. Appreciation of ballots. - The provisions of Sec. 211 of the Omnibus Election Code whenever applicable, shall govern the appreciation of ballots. Any question on the appreciation of ballots shall be decided by majority vote of the Plebiscite Committee.

No watcher or any other person inside the polling place shall be allowed to participate in the appreciation of ballots except to file a protest, which shall be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 42. Manner of counting of votes. - The counting of votes shall proceed as follows:

(a) The chairman takes the ballots of the first pile one by one and reads the votes cast;

(b) The poll clerk and the third member simultaneously record in the plebiscite returns and tally board the votes read. Each vote shall be recorded by a vertical line at the appropriate box in the plebiscite returns and in the tally board, except every fifth vote which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines;

(c) After finishing the first pile of ballots, the Plebiscite Committee shall count the affirmative and negative votes recorded and indicate on the plebiscite returns and on the tally board the sub-totals thereof, which shall be encircled.

If in case of discrepancy, a recount shall be made. The ballots shall again be grouped together as before the reading.

(d) Thereafter, the same procedure shall be followed with the second and subsequent piles of ballots; and

(e) After all the ballots for the precinct have been counted, the Plebiscite Committee shall:

1. Sum up the sub-totals of recorded Affirmative and Negative Votes and enter the grand total in the appropriate column of the plebiscite returns and tally board;

2. See to it that the entries in the first copy of the plebiscite returns are clearly impressed and reflected properly in the three other copies;

3. Sign the certification portion at the bottom of the plebiscite returns and tally board; and

4. Place the counted official ballots in the envelope for counted ballots, which shall be closed with a serially numbered paper seal, signed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots. The accomplished tally board, certified by the Plebiscite Committee, shall also be deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.

Sec. 43. Announcement of results. - Upon completion and certification of the plebiscite returns, the chairman shall publicly announce the total number of Affirmative and Negative votes cast and counted in the precinct.

Sec. 44. Distribution of plebiscite returns. - The Plebiscite Committee shall, in the presence of the watchers when available:

(a) Fold and seal each copy of the plebiscite returns with a serially numbered paper seal; and

(b) Place the plebiscite returns inside the corresponding envelope and seal the same with a serially numbered paper seal for distribution as follows:

1) The original copy for the Provincial Board of Canvassers which shall be delivered to the Election Officer who in turn shall place all the plebiscite returns for his municipality in a separate ballot box, which shall be locked and personally delivered together with the key to the chairman of the Provincial Board of Canvassers immediately after receipt of the returns from the different precincts in the municipality.

If within six hours of the first delivery, not all of the plebiscite returns from the precincts of the city or municipality have been submitted, the Election Officer shall designate another personnel in his office who is trustworthy to receive and deliver the remaining copies of the plebiscite returns to the office of the Provincial Election Supervisor.

In all instances the Election Officer and the election assistant shall observe and comply with the above procedure of delivering said copies of the plebiscite returns at intervals of six hours when possible until all the plebiscite returns in his jurisdiction are delivered to the Provincial Board of Canvassers at the earliest possible time but not later than August 15, 2001.

2) The second copy to the Election Officer;

3) The third copy to the accredited citizens arm; and

4) The fourth copy to the ballot box.

Sec. 45. Certificate of results. - Before leaving the precinct, it shall be the duty of the Plebiscite Committee to issue a certificate on the number of Affirmative and Negative votes to the watchers upon the latter's request. All the members of the Plebiscite Committee shall sign the certificate.

Sec. 46. Alterations and corrections in the plebiscite returns. - Any correction or alteration made in the plebiscite returns by the Plebiscite Committee before the announcement of the results of the plebiscite in the precinct, shall be duly initialed by the chairman.

After the announcement of the results of the plebiscite in the precinct has been made, the Plebiscite Committee shall not make any alteration or amendment in any of the copies of the plebiscite returns, unless as ordered by the Commission upon petition of all the members of the Plebiscite Committee within five days from the date of the plebiscite or twenty-four hours from the time a copy of the plebiscite returns is opened by the Board of canvassers, whichever is earlier. The petition shall be accompanied by proof of service upon the representatives of the proponent and opponent, if the results of the plebiscite would not be affected by said correction and none of the representatives of the proponent and opponent objects thereto. The Commission upon being satisfied with the veracity of the petition and of the error alleged therein, shall order the Plebiscite Committee to make the proper correction of the plebiscite returns. Otherwise, the Commission shall proceed summarily to hear the petition. If it finds the petition meritorious and there are no evidence or signs indicating that the identity and integrity of the ballot box have been violated, the Commission shall order the opening of the ballot box. After ascertaining that the integrity of the ballot box has also been duly preserved, the Commission shall order the recounting of votes effected and the proper corrections made on the plebiscite returns, unless the correction sought is such that it can be made without the need of opening the ballot box.

Sec. 47. Delivery of the ballot box, other supplies and documents, preservation of voting records, ballot boxes and their keys, and their disposition. - The provisions of Section 217, 218 and 219 of the Omnibus Election Code or delivery of ballot boxes, keys and election supplies and documents, preservation of the voting records and ballot boxes, and their keys and disposition of their contents shall apply to the plebiscite governed by this Resolution.

Sec. 47-A. Submission of voting data. - The Municipal Election Officer shall submit to the Provincial Board of Canvassers the data on registered voters and those who actually voted using the project of precincts in the municipalities involved. On the other hand, the City Election Officer shall submit the same data to the City Board of Canvassers.

CANVASS OF VOTES BY THE BOARDS OF CANVASSERS

Sec. 48. Boards of canvassers. - There is hereby created a Provincial Board of Canvassers in each province and a City Board of Canvassers in each city to canvass the plebiscite returns.

The Provincial Board of Canvassers shall be composed of: (a) Provincial Election Supervisor, as chairman, (b) Provincial Prosecutor, and (c) Division Superintendent of Schools, as members.

The City Board of Canvassers shall be composed of: (a) City Election Officer, as chairman, (b) City Prosecutor and (c) City Superintendent of Schools, as members.

Sec. 49. Support units, functions. - The Boards of Canvassers are authorized to create the following support units to assist in the canvass:

- 1. Reception and Custody Unit
- 2. Tabulation and Canvassing Unit
- 3. Audit and Verification Unit

Sec. 50. Supervision and control over the Board. - The Commission shall have direct control and supervision over the Boards of Canvassers and may, motu proprio, re-evaluate at any time any member thereof for cause and may substitute him with another.

Sec. 51. Absence of regular member of the Board. - In case of absence of a regular member in the Boards of Canvassers, the members present shall first verify whether or not notice stating the date, time and place of canvassing has been duly served on the absent regular member.

In the absence of such notice, one shall be immediately sent to the absent board member. If the latter cannot be located, or his whereabouts are unknown, he shall then be substituted. These facts shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Board. As soon as the absent member appears, the substitute member shall relinquish his seat to the regular board member.

Sec. 52. Incapacitated regular member of the Board. - In case of sickness or serious injury of the regular board member, a sworn medical certificate shall be required attesting to the incapacity of said regular board member. Upon submission of the medical certificate, a substitute shall be appointed. Said certificate shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Board.

Sec. 53. Prohibition against leaving official station. - During the period beginning August 9, 2001 until the completion of the canvass, no member or substitute member of the Board shall be transferred, assigned or detailed outside of his official station nor shall he leave his station without prior authority of the Commission.

Sec. 54. Secretary of the Board. - The division or city superintendent of schools, as the case may be, shall act as secretary of the Board unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. He shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board.

Sec. 55. Canvassing of the Board. - The Board shall meet at 8:00 P.M. on plebiscite day and immediately proceed to canvass the plebiscite returns submitted to it.

Sec. 56. Notice of canvass. - The chairman of the Board shall, not later than August 8, 2001, notify in writing his members of the time and place of the canvassing which shall be held in the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan or the Sangguniang Pangkanggad, as the case may be. He shall also send similar notices to the representatives of the proponent and opponent, the citizens arm of the Commission, as well as other civic, religious, professional, business service, youth and similar organizations which are allowed to appoint watchers for purposes of the plebiscite. Each of the representatives of the proponent and opponent and citizens arm shall be entitled to two watchers who shall serve alternately.

Notice of the date, time and place of the canvass shall be posted in conspicuous places in the building where the canvass will be held one week before plebiscite day.

Sec. 57. Quorum. - A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; a majority vote of all the members thereof shall be necessary to render a decision.

Sec. 58. Watchers' right and duties. - Representatives of the proponent and opponent, the citizens arm of the Commission, if any, and other groups or organizations authorized to appoint watchers during the plebiscite and during the canvassing may appoint watchers. A person who is not a registered voter of the city or municipality, who is of questionable reputation, or who has been convicted of an election offense or any other crime shall not be appointed as watcher.

The watchers shall have the right to:

- (a) be present at and take note of all the proceedings;
- (b) read the plebiscite returns without touching them; and
- (c) file a protest against any irregularity noted in the plebiscite returns or in the proceedings and obtain the resolution thereon in writing.

The watchers shall not be allowed to participate in the deliberation of the Board.

Sec. 59. Canvassing Procedures. - The Board is enjoined to observe the following procedures:

1. It shall meet promptly at 8:00 o'clock in the evening of plebiscite day to receive from the Election Officer, through the Reception and Custody Unit, the plebiscite returns of a municipality contained in ballot box(es);

2. Upon receipt of the ballot boxes, the Reception and Custody Unit shall, one by one:

a) log the condition and serial numbers of the ballot box and metal seal;

b) open the ballot box and log the condition and serial number of the inner metal seal;

c) retrieve the envelopes containing the Plebiscite Returns, log the condition and serial numbers of the paper seal and envelope and the corresponding precinct number; and

d) return the envelopes containing the Plebiscite Returns inside the ballot box, close and lock the same with padlocks and forward it to the Board.

3. The Secretary of the Board shall record in the Minutes the condition and serial number of the ballot box.

4. The Chairman shall then open the ballot box, retrieve the envelopes containing the Plebiscite Returns and direct the Secretary to record in the Minutes the total number of envelopes contained in the ballot box, the condition and serial numbers of the paper seals and the envelopes containing the Plebiscite Returns.

5. The Board through its Chairman breaks the paper seal of an envelope, retrieves the Plebiscite Returns, directs the Secretary to record in the Minutes the condition and serial number of the paper seal of the returns, break the seal, record the condition and serial number of the Plebiscite Returns, and thereafter, shows the Plebiscite Returns to the parties concerned.

If there are no objections thereto, the Board shall assign the Plebiscite Returns in bunch to the Tabulation and Canvassing Unit for canvassing. The Secretary shall record the municipality and precinct number of the Plebiscite Returns in a logbook.

If there are objections to a Plebiscite Return, the Board shall immediately decide on the objections. If the decision is for the inclusion of the Plebiscite Return, it shall be assigned to the Tabulation and Canvassing Unit; if the decision is not for its inclusion, the Board shall prepare a separate tally and place the corrected Plebiscite Returns inside a ballot box.

The Board retains the separate tally to avail other contested Plebiscite Returns, if any. When a separate tally is filled up, the Board shall compute the sub-total of the affirmative and negative votes and places the separate tally inside the ballot box containing the Plebiscite Returns already

The Board rules on the objections after submission of evidence relative thereto. If there is an appeal on the decision, the Board elevates all records including the separate tally to the Commission.

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At the Men's Wear Department



B3 FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2001

Is wage hike a genuine safety net?

BEFORE the politicians and some crackpot economists muddle the wage issue, let us focus on the facts and the consequences of another wage hike. Let us begin with the end in mind. Can another wage increase really help the workers?

It is the general consensus among HR practitioners in the country today that increasing wages now via the regional wage boards will inevitably make life more difficult for businessmen without necessarily improving the economic conditions of the workers. Instead, this new round of increment in the cost of doing business will further drive away investors, eliminate job opportunities and exacerbate the precarious threat to industrial peace.

The announcement made by the labor secretary to gear up for another round of wage increases brings us again to the usual chicken-and-egg question—of whether increasing labor cost at this point in time, in order to address the problem of inflation, is not itself inflationary. In short, is the proposed solution not a bigger problem?

In other words, is wage increase an authentic safety net? Wouldn't it aggravate inflation, jeopardize job security, endanger the continuity of small and medium scale industries, and unduly disturb industrial peace? We know that, based on experience, the usual attendant problems arising from wage orders like issues on wage distortions and creditability of mandated wage rise vis-à-vis CBA negotiated improvement in wage levels. That is quite a mouthful of imponderables waiting to happen once we touch the wage issue.

It's the economy, madam

What's happening to our economy? Our President is an economist but all economic indicators are down. It is too early to judge her but the signs are not very promising. Exports were down by 5.6 percent as of May. Our volume of exports in 2000, from January to May, was \$14.206 billion. This year, it is down to \$13.407 billion. It is the fourth month in a row that exports registered a decline.

The Philippine economy is actually sliding down to a recession. Economists tell us that an economy is deemed to be in recession if it registers two

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B.
Jimenez

double digit. Another wage increase will definitely be one of its strong drivers.

The labor secretary, like the President, is the last person to need a lecture on the economy. The lady is an economic expert and a respected authority on employment and wages. Her views of the economy are global and she sees the macro perspectives long before she was elected president of the ILLO assembly in Geneva. She knows that the workers are the most vulnerable victims of high inflation rates. We therefore trust that the government will exercise utmost prudence on the wage issue.

It's not just the economy, sir

It is politics too. It is trying to appease the sectors that are more agitated. We have to understand that the Macapagal administration is under pressure from all sides. The pressure from the labor sector is too strong to resist.

In fact, the abrogation of DOLE Order No. 10 on the matter of job contracting was rushed without sufficient consultations because after the May 1 strike,

the government thought it should offer something to labor.

But then, do we have to offer something that is harmful to labor in the long run? Shouldn't we disclose and explain to our working class the negative implications of another wage hike? And shouldn't we search for non-traditional benefits to shield the workers from the adverse effects of the worsening economy?

In search of safety nets

For instance, why don't we exempt minimum wage earners from income taxation? Why don't we ask SSS to allocate all the revenues generated from stock investments to soft-term loans? Or declare total amnesty for delinquent loans, and reinstate the presumption of "compensability" for all sickness, disability and death of workers? Why not widen the scope of PhilHealth and Pag-Ibig and reduce all the salaries of GOCC and GFI executives. And, don't limit this to GMA's appointees.

Yes, Madam, perhaps we should be searching for options to cushion the impact of today's financial woes on the employees, without exacerbating the sufferings of the business sector.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcpi.com.ph)

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BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Pizza firm spends cool millions for hot makeover

BY MICHELLE V. REMO

THE PRICE of change is definitely high for Greenwich Pizza Corp., but the firm believes the potential returns down the road justify the expense.

In an effort to keep attuned with the ever-changing demands of the market,

erations, explains that the new Greenwich logo is done in brilliant green and vivid rose, a change from the previous dark green and red. This, she explains, matches the active and vibrant lifestyle of Greenwich's young target market.

Greenwich stores are undergoing renovations, with the new colors painted on its walls, and the new logo, with the letter "g," placed above the name "Greenwich" near the entrances.

Gruet further explains that Greenwich has particularly paid attention to vibrancy in its stores to give customers the impression that dining at Greenwich doesn't only satisfy one's hunger but also provides a pleasing dining experience for customers.

This is all part of its thrust to provide "full customer satisfaction."

In the new advertisement of Greenwich, it introduces the four ways to serve

wild guesses, but were based on customer surveys and market research.

Cherry Cahya, Greenwich marketing director, shares that Greenwich conducts customer surveys and that the results are discussed regularly. Changes in the store logo and look are based on the conclusions from the market analysis made.

Serving food hot and fresh has been included in Greenwich's new service campaign since the "hotness" and "freshness" of foods served came out as two of the most significant points customers consider in choosing where to dine.

Cahya also emphasizes Greenwich's campaign for "fast" service, since market studies reveal that what customers dislike most, particularly about pizza houses, is the long wait for meals to be served.

Finally, serving food "with a smile" by food crew and customer attendants substantiates the store's claim of providing clients with a welcoming and vibrant dining experience.

Assimilating a much brighter and active image does not end with the new store design and service campaigns.

Included in the list is the "Greenwich Primo," which the food chain claims to be the "first-ever thick-crust and mozzarella-cheese pizza."

Greenwich marketing officer Clarissa de la Paz explains that Primo was purposely developed to fit the huge appetite of their target market—the working men and women in their 20s and early 30s who allot their free time to dine out with friends after a day's work.

Greenwich also launched the "Crispy Fried Chicken."

Greenwich earlier launched the "Pearl Coolers" as a response to demand for shakes, especially during the summer months.

Earlier still, it launched its new pizzas with "mas pinasorap, mas pinasikzik na toppings," with Donita Rose and Rya Agoncillo as image models. Again, the objective was to keep up with the need for change and to fit itself further with its young target market.

Change has apparently beat the name of the game for Greenwich, which now claims to have reached the No. 1 spot in the pizza-pasta business in terms of market share. Since Jollibee Foods Corp. bought Greenwich in 1994, the food chain continues to grow, now with close to 200 operating outlets nationwide, from the original 50.

Hitting P1 billion sales as early as the end-1997—just three years after Jollibee's acquisition—proves how change has raked in the profits for Greenwich.



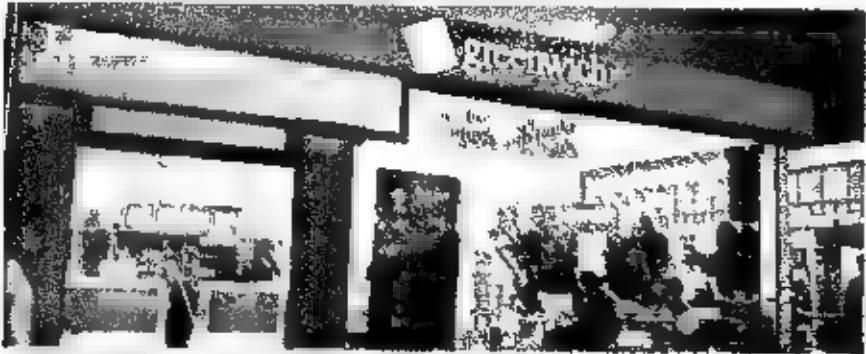
THE OLD Greenwich store design with its dark green color.

customers—serves food hot, fresh, fast and with a smile.

These, the company believes, are keys that will bring customers to dine in Greenwich stores. These concepts did not come as

part of undergoing change is not as easy as 1, 2, 3. Coming out with the appropriate change in image that captures the fancy of the market is always crucial to guarantee success of an undertaking.

Yam Gruet, Greenwich director for op-



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JAPANESE TUTOR 3303154	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	MIKAN & GARDEN	2% w/o taking car 3670169		
LA LUZ 5298216/70	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	LAURENCE	2% w/o taking car 7262784		
WESTERN TUTOR 7521758	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	FORTE REALTY	2% w/o taking car 7221621		
HOUSEHOLD	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	MIKAN & GARDEN	2% w/o taking car 3732883		
HOUSEHOLD AIDS	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	LAURENCE	2% w/o taking car 3646928		
Efficient, Trained Maids B73-5271 • 873-5062	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
* ANNIVERSARY PROMO *	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	FACTORY/WAREHOUSE	1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677224/24		
Lowest Office Fee Prov'l & City All Around	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	LAURENCE	2% w/o taking car 3670169		
Maids Cook Vaya H's Boy Available Nationwide	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Las Pinas 873-7967-872-0288	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	FACTORY/WAREHOUSE	1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677224/24		
Cebu: 873-7967-913-6235	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Zapote: 873-1433-873-7055	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	FACTORY/WAREHOUSE	1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677224/24		
Manil: 873-7968-863-3586	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Help Agency 5282578-65321047	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Home Maid Specialists Call Tel. 650-4698	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Low Rate Maid 9282642	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
We have maids nurse m/wife Himcare 7112368 4141135	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
LIPAT BAYAY	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
L-BAHAY 92087844-640520	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
4CHEAP L-BAHAY 8280424*	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
ELF 7421467	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
L-BAHAY 8383724/5447690	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
L-BAHAY 7111364D	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
L-BAHAY 712-16-92	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
NoDP, 2850/ma 09195096014	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
3 LOTS 240 m ² per lot Mega Heights Subdivision P3,000 per square meter House and Lot 12m ² m ² P1.5M Batangas City Contact Cesar T-821-1270 locat 2271 or 2368	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Various Wash Condos Lee Gardens 534-6610 Jolo	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Shophorn Proj B, QC 203m ² 2st fl w/atic 828-3267	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE		
Efficient, Trained Maids B73-5271 • 873-5062	LA187m ² Brg 38R 2TB GD Loc. neg rush 874-9874/75	GENERAL 			



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Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 40MM GRENADE LAUNCHERS** with an approved budget of **Forty Three Million Seven Hundred Forty Thousand Pesos (P43,740,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 13, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J8, AFP, 3rd Floor, Buwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 26, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. (local time)** at the **Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (APCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on **August 17, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. (local time)** and followed by the Opening of Bids at **1:00 p.m. at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (APCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) LTGEN ROY A CIMATU AFP
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PD - July 13 & 14, 2001)

PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.
PostalBank Center, Lhwasang Bonifacio, Manila

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc. through its Disposal Committee invites interested buyers to bid on any of the items listed below. The submission of bids will be on **July 18, 2001** and the opening and awarding will be on **July 23, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.**, respectively at 2F PostalBank Center, Lhwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Location of Properties

Location	Description
Brgy. Sto. Niño, Junction West, Taguig City	10,000 square meters Lot 9, Pct. 04-000232 TCT No. T-40786
No. 23 4th Avenue Brgy. Bagong Lipunan, Cubao District, Quezon City	70 square meters Lot 6-Q, Pct. 13-003295 TCT No. 208384
Cherry Homes Street, Moonwalk Village, Banagay La Huerta Paranaque City (land improvement)	238 square meters with improvements-residential building 3-door apartment type TCT No. 45198, 145500, 145501 145502, 145503, 145504, 145505, 145506
Imperial Royale Townhouse, Barangay Talis Dos (Pariong) Las Pinas City, Metropolitan Manila	78 square meters, 60 sq. meters floor area one warehouse unit Lot 15, Block 5, Pct. 00-032799 TCT No. 71842

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 20% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check only.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous.

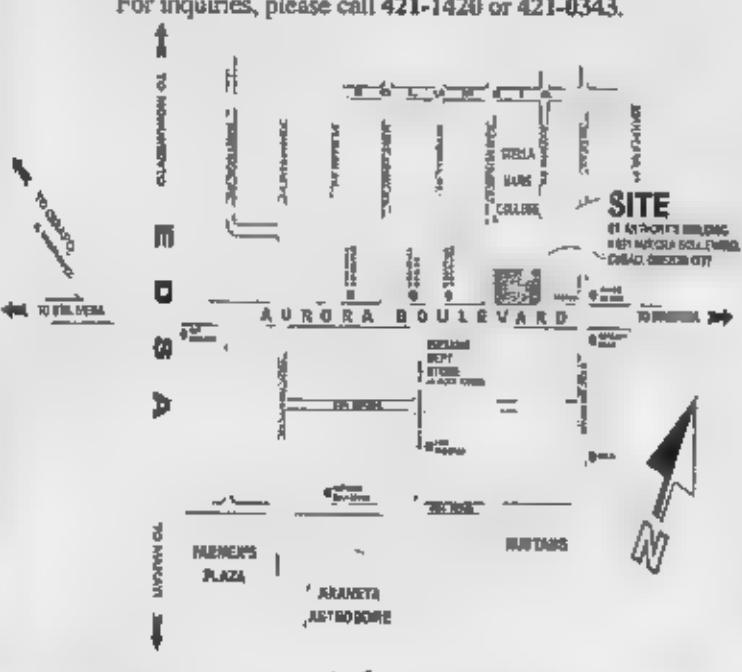
For further information, please call 5270057, 5270053 loc. 108 or 141

(Sgd.) EDWIN A. REMODO
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PD - July 13, 2001)

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

June 26, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar land development works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/MAC, to prequalify and bid for the contract

Bid Package Scope of Works Project Cost (Ppt. M.) PCAB Category MAC Classification Medium A for roads
Komeda SG Project Land dev'l. road, 8.40 Category B
Komeda SG Project Land dev'l. road, 8.40 Category B
Komeda SG Project Land dev'l. road, 8.40 Category B

- Eligibility Statement forms, bid document/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/MAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Accreditation and Contract Agreement of completed similar project, and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.
- Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.
- Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.
- Deadline of submission of LO/Other documents is on July 23, 2001. All other subsequent activities will be announced through a bid bulletin.
- The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager

(PD - July 12, 13 & 14, 2001)

REPUBLICA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihiw
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting manufacturers/suppliers for the bidding of 1,500 sets of Glass Ionomer Dental Filling Materials for Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) project in selected division/schools

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting July 12 to 24, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Pm. 112-A, Mabini Blg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City

A pre-bid conference will be held on July 24, 2001, 10:00 AM at Buwagang Karunungan, Rizal Blg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be Aug. 8, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO B. PANGAN
Secretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PD - July 12 & 13, 2001)



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on **28 July 2001 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS**:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
LRD-113A	City (fronting Clover Lane) Showroom	38,015 m ² commercial/industrial lot (TCT N-171471, N-171472, N-171473, N-171475) with buildings and improvements	P 442,636,000.00
LRD-113B	Gaisa, Quezon City (bounded by Lusok, Samano, Laizet and Pedro Paterno Sts.)	2,400 m ² residential/industrial lot (TCT Nos. N-171474 & N-171477) with buildings and improvements	P 25,000,000.00
VAB-91	Int. Calle Mayubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	404.4 m ² residential lot (TCT 143002)	P 8,168,000.00
VAB-93	Int. Calle Mayubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	398.3 m ² residential lot (TCT 143000)	P 7,968,000.00
VCP-98	1304 Int. M. Navas St., Navotas	227.20 m ² residential lot (TCT No. G-300082)	P 8,544,000.00
MEE-145	Cnr. gl Road Lot 11 and 27 Congressional Model Subd., Camarin, Caloocan City	338 m ² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. G-300082) with buildings and improvements	P 666,000.00
Blanca	Tadeo St., Poblacion, Bustos	228 m ² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 334418)	P 441,600.00
BLTY-141	Saturn St., Metacor Homes, Cavite, Antipolo City	2,999 m ² residential/commercial lot (TCT No. 118053) with buildings and improvements	P 13,167,000.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)		410 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 398264) with buildings and improvements	P 1,089,700.00
VCP-S3a	FCIE Compound, Brgy. Langaya, Dasmarinas Cavite	22 units various machinery and equipment for fabrication of bolts and nuts. Sale on per unit basis	P 7,002.00 to P 1,269,714.00 per unit
LRD-140	Pinatubo Bridge Mz. Compound Brgy. Estrada, Capas, Tarlac	11 units various brick making machinery and equipment (in damaged condition)	P 705,000.00

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

882-3636 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L,
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V and
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PD - July 12 & 13, 2001)



Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2001-38

Rebidding Date : July 24, 2001

CONSTRUCTION/ELECTRICAL HARDWARE & SUPPLIES
(Lumber, Cement, Sand, Electrical Tape, Lamp Holder, etc.)

NITROGEN Liquid, Refill only

FACEMILL HOLDER ACCESSORIES (Screw, Shim, Screw, etc.)
HAND TOOLS (Pliers, Cutters, Screwdriver Sets, Gloves, etc.)
GRASS CUTTER

COMPRESSOR, Aircon, SD-508 Ordinary Groove, Owing Type SERVICES: Supply of Labor and Materials for the Rehabilitation & Relocation of Deepwell #2

SERVICES: Supply of Labor and Materials for the General Repair of Mazda Van E-2000, Model 1990

*Bidding Date : July 31, 2001

CONSTRUCTION/ELECTRICAL HARDWARE & SUPPLIES
(Lumber, Plywood, Paint, Paint Thinner, Door Knob, Lamp, Starlet, Holder, Plug, etc.)

ENGINE ASSEMBLY, Complete with: Floor Shift, 5 Speed Transmission & Transfer Case (4x4), 4098 Turbo Diesel Series

SERVICES: Supply and Installation of TUE1 Cable & Terminal Accessories (Shielded Twisted Pair Cable, Terminal Blocks, Backmount Frames, Plugs, etc.)

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Fm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OCB, Quezon Ave cor. Aguirre Rd., Diliman, Quezon City

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of being at the telephone directory. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on July 20, 2001.

Bidding documents available on July 12, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (OCB).

Last day of issuance of bidding documents July 26, 2001.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574.

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

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OBITUARIES

BRIG. GEN. IGNACIO J. CANTO (RET.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 10, 2001 at the age of 78.

His loving wife Luzz; children Dingdong (†) and Julie, Belle and Amor, Chong and Chris (†), Ting and Tony, Iggy and Jun, Bong and Lorica; his grandchildren Carina, Cito Boy, Ikit, Imon, J-Ann, Aldwin, Tonton, Chin chin, Camille, Isa, Pyke, Fritz and Karla request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Villamor Air Base (VAB) Chapel, Pasay City.

Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, July 15, 2001 at VAB Chapel after which interment follows at the Libungan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

In Loving Memory
On his 20th Death Anniversary

JOSE B. LEDESMA

September 29, 1911 - July 13, 1981

President, West Visayas State College (1968 - 1977)

Masses will be celebrated at the following churches on:

July 13, 2001

Our Lady of Monserrat Church,
Gran Plains Subdivision, Jaro, Iloilo City
San Nicolas de Tolentino Church, Dao, Antique
St. Paul's Church, Congers, New York, USA
Don Bosco Church, Makati City

July 14, 2001

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel,
L.J. Ledesma Village, Jaro, Iloilo City

The family requests relatives, friends, and readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

6:00 AM
6:00 AM
6:30 AM
7:30 AM
6:00 PM

"God saw you getting tired
when a cure was not to be.
He closed His arms around you
and whispered 'Come to Me.'"

VIOLET (Baba) POWELL MERLO

9 October 1929 - 27 June 2001

Loving wife of ANTONIO

mother of GILBERT and RACHAEL, LAURA and SAUL BRYAN

grandmother of AIYANA, KASHIA, JAMES, LIANNE and VANESSA

sister of GRACE, WINNIE, ELEANOR, DICK, GEORGIE (†) and LORRAINE

Was called home to our Father in Heaven in Sydney, Australia after receiving the Blessed Sacrament.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, 14 July 2001 at the crypt in San Antonio Church, Forbes Park at 4:00 PM.

PAZ MATALA

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 10, 2001

Her loving mother, brothers & sisters, request to pray for her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at #37 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City

Interment will be on July 15, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. after the Mass

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

DR. ELENA LIM BENJAMIN

Retired Superintendent:
Laguna, Or. Mindoro, Cavite

January 13, 1925 - July 1, 2001

Her beloved sisters Aurora & Adelaida Lim; children: Zorayda & Bombing, Benjamin² & Ma. Asuncion, Ruellie & Editha Michael & Gloria, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the San Isidro Labrador Mortuary, Bilibid, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Cemetery, Sucat, Parañaque City.

General life
will swallow
up that which
can die. God
made us for
this very
reason and
He has given
us the Spirit
as a guarantee
that we will
live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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- ② Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN**

People, Events & Products

Petron voted 'SuperBrand' in Reader's Digest poll

A POLL conducted by Reader's Digest reaffirms Petron's top position in the Philippine market. Local consumers voted Petron as their brand of choice in the Gas Station Category of the SuperBrands 2001 Survey, evaluating it in terms of product and service quality, value, image, trustworthiness, and understanding of customer needs.

The Gold Award status accorded to Petron is indicative of the company's steadfast commitment to customer service and satisfaction. "It is rewarding to know that our continuous efforts at improving Petron's services are recognized by our valued customers," says President and CEO Motassim A. Al-Ma'ashouq. "The honor of being a SuperBrand further inspires us to work at offering

the consuming public nothing less than the best," he says.

This is seconded by Walter A. Tan, Petron's vice president for marketing, who believes that the awards given out by the consumers themselves are the best gauge of a company's performance. "We are in business primarily for these people. To get a positive feedback from them is an assurance enough that we have succeeded in what we strive to accomplish."

The SuperBrands Survey is conducted annually by Reader's Digest Asia's most widely-read magazine, among its readers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. Its aim is to shed light on the consumer preferences of a representative cross section of Asian society by digging deeper into their psyche and discovering their favorite brands.

San Francisco HS '77 meet

THERE will be a regular membership meeting of members of San Francisco High School (formerly Don Mariano Marcos High School in Quezon City) batch 1977 to be held at Bahay Alumni at UP Diliman, Quezon City on

July 14, Saturday at 3 p.m. Please call Socorro Lladones (926-5015), Gloria Garcia (926-6271), Jerry Brazil (929-1766), Amanda Esteban (806-9234), Flor Pascubillo (527-3559) or Satur Madrinico (920-6721).

Picpa membership amnesty extended

DUE to persistent requests to extend the amnesty program on Picpa membership, the National Board of Directors has approved June 1 to Aug. 31, 2001 as another amnesty period. Under this amnesty, all members in arrears of their dues shall only pay P500 on or before Aug. 31, otherwise they will be paying much more thereafter.

Please call the Picpa national headquarters at 700 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City or call Roy Trinidad, national MCC chair at (063) 221-3406 and (063) 492-0795, Iligan City; or Horace Dumino and Emma Cutson at 723-0691 to 95 or 726-9456 for more information.



COCA-COLA SCHOLARS ATTEND VALUES WORKSHOP

The first batch of graduating scholars of Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines Inc.'s (CCFP) Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BSEE) scholarship program recently attended a special workshop at the Training Center in Santa Rosa, Laguna. The 34 scholars, who qualified for the scholarship in 1997, participated in special sessions on public speaking and values formation by professors Onofre Pagsanghan of the Ateneo de Manila

and Dr. Lourdes M. Geron of the University of the Philippines Baguio.

AGFI TURNS OVER MUNICIPAL HEALTH CENTER

The Municipal Health Center of Liloan in Cebu was designed and built by the people of Liloan themselves with the help of the local government unit and the Abolitz Group Foundation Inc. (Agfi). Agfi provided funding of P450,000 and the LGU P150,000. Liloan mayor Panphil B. Frasco (left) and Agfi trustee Roberto E. Abolitz cut the ribbon during turnover ceremonies of the new municipal health center.

UST Hospital art contest

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Hospital Division of Rehabilitation Medicine presents an on-the-spot art contest for persons with disabilities. Participants must be Persons with Disabilities (PWD's). Participants or their representa-

tives must register at the 4th floor of the A. Mabini Rehabilitation Center-Clinical Division on or before July 15. For particulars, contact Arlene or Jojo at 731-3001 loc. 2432/2297-2488 or 781-8018.

Upcat refresher course set

AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center will hold refresher review courses for the upcoming University of the Philippines College Admission Test (Upcat) on Sunday, July 15, at La Salle Greenhills in San Juan and on July 22 again at La Salle Greenhills. Each refresher course will last from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All students who attended Ahend's Upcat review course last summer are entitled to attend the refresher courses for free. Ahead summer reviewees are advised to call Ahead at 426-0034 to 31 to make arrangements.

5th Dancesport competition

THE DANCESPORT Council of the Philippines headed by president Becky Garcia is staging its 5th Midyear Ranking and Competition Alaxan Cup on July 14 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. This year promises to be a big event with dancesport athletes participating from all over the country in several categories in the two dancesport disciplines—Standard and Latin American. International coach and adjudicator Wolfgang Opitz will conduct the two-day workshop on July 12 for Standard competitors and on July 13 for Latin competitors also at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

PBBY bookfair

THE PHILIPPINE Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) and Shangri-La Plaza Mall, in cooperation with Nido, shall mount the 3rd PBBY Children's Book Festival on July 14-22 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. The festival shall feature a children's book fair, storytelling and book signing sessions; an exhibit of children's book illustrators; and other activities. For more inquiries, call the PBBY Secretariat at 372-3548 or 49, or e-mail pdg@adarna.com.ph

Circuit assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses

MANILA Circuit No. 4 of Jehovah's Witnesses will hold their two-day circuit assembly on July 14 and 15 at the Metro Manila Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at 1140 President Quirino Highway, Kaligayaan Novaliches, Quezon City. "Love God—not the things of the world" is the theme of the two-day circuit assembly, taken from 1 John 2:15-17 of the Holy Bible. The session will start at 8:30 a.m. Admission is free. Everyone is invited.

Jitse-Phil applications deadline

IT practitioners and students have until July 15 to submit their applications for the first Jitse-Phil or Japanese Information Technology Standard Examination of the Philippines, which will be simultaneously held at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City and the University of San Carlos in Talamban, Cebu on Sept. 9. Only 1,000 persons will be chosen to take the exam. Out of this number, 900 will come from Metro Manila and the remaining 100 from Cebu. The rigid selection process will be based on a predetermined demographic table such as age, sex and occupation.



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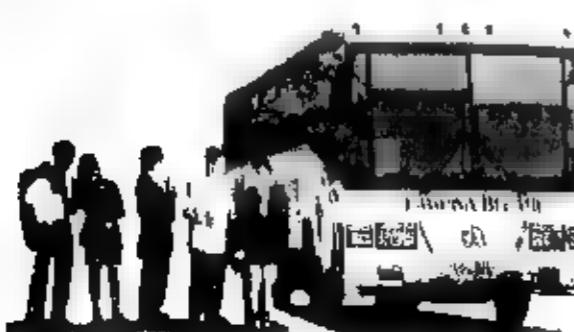
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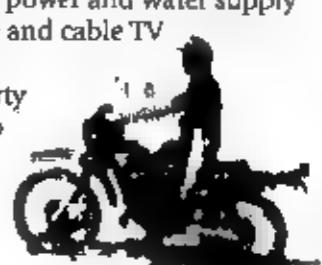
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LIFESTYLE

CHILO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection

Gardening rekindles his faith

BY ADRIAN
LIZARES
PHOTOS BY
CHITO VECINA
EDITORIAL DIRECTION
BY ALBERT AVELLANA

I HAD the pleasure of visiting the garden of Rodrigo de los Reyes in Tagaytay City. Ding, as he is known to his peers and family, is the former CEO and president of Philamlife and Far East Bank and Trust Co. Having retired from business, he now devotes his time to family and personal activities. I caught him in his garden and would like to share with you his insights on plants, gardens and the joys of life.

Can you give a brief description of your garden in Tagaytay?

The original land area was 10,000 sq m, but I had to acquire an additional 2,500 sq m on the south side (down the ridge) of the property to protect ourselves from the activities of "slash and burn" farmers of *katinginan* who indiscriminately burn dried brush some 1,500 ft below to clear land for cash crop planting.

Fanned by strong winds from the lake below, the flames would roar over the ridge of the old volcanic crater and burn everything in its path as it curves over the rim. I built a wall below to stop the flames and planted the area in between with leafy trees to cushion the impact of the flames.

What determines GARDENING/p>C2



RODRIGO de los Reyes in his element



MSD HEALTH NEWS

Eating a healthy, balanced diet is important for everyone, but particularly for people with arthritis. If you have osteoarthritis, controlling your weight is very important as it helps to reduce strain on vulnerable joints like the knees and hips. By following guidelines for a healthy diet you can help yourself to lose weight and maintain a good overall level of health. For some types of arthritis (particularly gout), the right diet (low in protein) may also help to reduce your symptoms.

Why is weight control important for people with arthritis?

Weight control is particularly important for people with arthritis, especially osteoarthritis - a link has been found between obesity and the progression of osteoarthritis. Being overweight increases the stress on joints like the knees and hips. If these joints already have osteoarthritis, increased weight can make them more painful.

On the other hand, losing weight can reduce the strain on these joints which in turn can reduce pain. Some research suggests that losing weight can help prevent people with osteoarthritis from developing symptoms. In one U.S. study in 1992, researchers showed that overweight women, middle-aged or older, with osteoarthritis in the knee could substantially reduce their risk for developing symptomatic osteoarthritis by losing weight. By losing approximately 11 pounds (5 kilograms) over a 10-year period, the study showed that an overweight woman could reduce her risk of developing symptoms of knee osteoarthritis by 50%.

Are You In Control Of Your Osteoarthritis?

How can eating a healthy, balanced diet help arthritis?

Eating a balanced diet will help in controlling your weight and maintaining a good overall standard of health. Eating a balanced, varied diet will help ensure that your joints (especially the knee) can benefit from all the vitamins and minerals that are needed to keep them healthy, and may help to slow down the underlying disease processes in arthritis.

In knee osteoarthritis, for example, diets rich in vitamin C and vitamin D may be helpful in slowing down the progression of the disease, and reducing the amount of joint pain, particularly in the knee.

People with gout need to pay particular attention to their weight, and are encouraged to restrict the amount of alcohol they drink. Food substances called purines may increase the amount of uric acid in the body, and by doing so, may trigger the pain and inflammation of an affected joint. Cutting down on shellfish, internal meats, yeast, herrings and bacon, all of which are high in purines, is recommended. If you suffer from gout, you should drink plenty of low-calorie, non-alcoholic fluids (between 2 and 3 liters per day) to keep your kidneys healthy and reduce the concentrations of uric acid in your blood.

Finally, some studies have shown that fish oils contain a substance (called a fatty acid) that may be beneficial in rheumatoid arthritis. The use of a fish oil dietary supplement may be suggested by some medical teams.

How is osteoarthritis managed?

Osteoarthritis is usually managed using a combination of:

- Education about the disease
- Weight control (if obesity is a problem)
- Physical therapy to strengthen and mobilize joints
- Aerobic exercise to increase overall fitness and aid with weight loss
- Medication to control pain and reduce inflammation
- Surgery if the damage to the joint is severe



What are the treatment options?

If your doctor determines that you need to include medication in your treatment program, he or she may suggest a mild analgesic (pain-killer) such as aspirin, acetaminophen/paracetamol or prescribe an NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) to help reduce your pain. NSAIDs work to reduce the inflammation, pain and swelling of arthritis.

Occasional use of analgesics or NSAIDs usually do not cause problems, but if you take larger doses or your treatment extends for a long period of time, some of you might experience some side effects. Many people taking NSAIDs experience some sort of stomach upset. This might be for some of you, a bloated feeling, gas, heartburn or stomach ache and there could also be constipation, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting. If you experience any unexpected effects, signs or symptoms from your medication or whenever you have any questions regarding your medication, you should contact your doctor without hesitation.

Alternatively, your doctor may prescribe you with newer medications that may be better tolerated. A new class of medicines, called COX-2 inhibitors (Coxibs), has been developed to treat arthritis pain and inflammation. These compounds have been designed to block the action of COX-2 only, leaving the important function of COX-1 intact. This selective action on COX-2 results in potentially better tolerated pain relief. For example, rofecoxib, a medicine belonging to the Coxib class, provided relief from arthritis pain and inflammation with significantly fewer severe stomach side effects compared to other studied NSAIDs as shown in clinical studies. Rofecoxib is also the only COX-2 inhibitor approved for relief of acute pain by the United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) and the Philippine Bureau of Food and Drugs. Like with all long-term treatment with common pain relievers, however, if you experience unexpected effects like kidney problems, water retention or increases in blood pressure while taking Coxibs, you should consult your doctor right away.

The exact treatment you will receive will depend upon the severity of your condition and how much your lifestyle is affected by your arthritis. Whatever form of treatment you receive, it is very important that you understand what it is for, what you can expect from it and how it will help your arthritis. Understanding these things will help you to take a more active role in your own treatment, to feel more in control of the disease and to get the most benefit from your treatment program.

For more information about osteoarthritis and its treatment, consult your doctor. For other concerns, you may call the MSD Customer Call Center at 878-6238. For outside Metro Manila, call (call-free) 1-800-1-444-6737.



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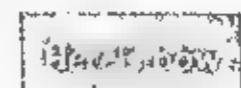
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Feeling at home with Tessie Tomas

BY LEAH SALTERIO
PHOTOS BY BOB MERU

HOSTING the weekly show "Feel at Home" on ABS-CBN has made Tessie Tomas more conscious about her own abode. Seeing the different homes of other people has also given her the flair for constantly refurbishing her own place.

Her condo unit in Makati is a testament to Tessie's fancy but elegant taste for home living. Despite her busy schedule, she spends at least three hours a week to check on the house. She calls on the building repair man if a bulb on the big chandelier hovering on the dining table is busted. She sees one of the track lights in the ceiling missing and immediately gets it replaced.

She sends her assistant to Dangwa to buy fresh flowers for the living room and the dining area.

"Eclectic and not predictable" is how Tessie describes her style for home living.

"This is very Zen," she says of her home. "With a small place like this, you got to have a minimalist style."

Tessie gives credit to her only son, Robin, for taste. When the house underwent renovation last year, mother and son were both at work on the makeover.

The old beige color of the living room walls was changed into apple green. The doors, meanwhile, were texture-painted in moss green. The floor tiles were changed into black narra parquet.

The interiors were done by Manuel Villafana, Robin's former office-mate at Ace Saatchi.

Revolutionary design

"Initially, I thought the design was too revolutionary for our taste," Tessie allows. "But Robin convinced me to trust Manuel. They showed me photos of unconventional houses and I was persuaded to modify our place."

The trio went all the way to Bangkok to scout for accoutrements and other neat trappings that will go with the new motif of the house.

Yards of light green Thai silk were bought for the drapes, while a different Thai silk cloth in monochromatic green hue was used for the upholstery of the living room set.

The other chairs were reshaped into Donna Karan-type furniture, while the dining set chairs were reupholstered in off-white.

Interestingly, a red couch stands out in the dining room, alongside other chairs.

Even the bathroom is in flaming red.

"Red is my input," Tessie beams. "I always want an element of surprise for the home."

The floor was changed into black narra parquet.

Aside from the drapes, the windows of the condo unit have Roman bamboo shades, that Tessie bought from Alenzuela Handicrafts. "That's how Robin wants it," she says.

A huge mirror with Italian gold leaf border



TESSIE and Roger Pullin

THE DECOR theme is consistent from the foyer to the living room. Venetian mirror to expand the space, choice furniture and Asian pieces

PHOTO BY ART DE LA ROSA

looks in the living room. Tiny track lights with dimmers are used on ceilings, instead of the conventional bulbs or fluorescent lamps.

At night, however, Tessie prefers to light the scented candles scattered around the house.

"I use the candles because they're therapeutic and Oriental. They also give that soothing or romantic feel."

FEELING/p.C6

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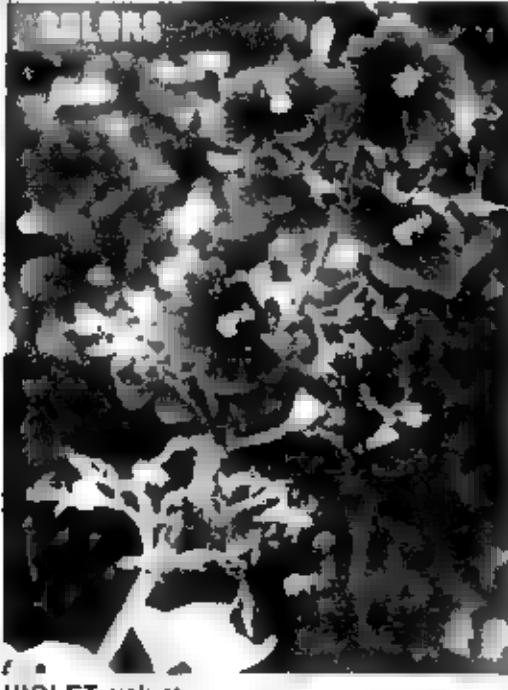
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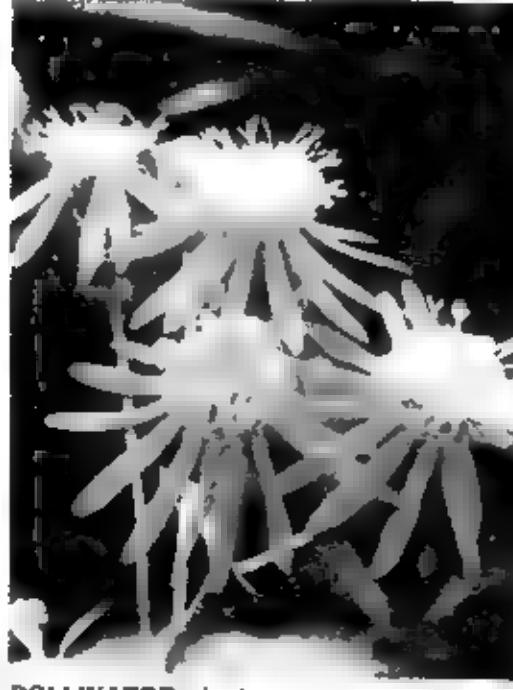
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Gardening rekindles his faith

(From page C1)

'I built my own Camelot. You, too, can do the same as long as you believe that whatever you have is your own Camelot'

motivated and even the smallest of successes, like the flowering of a plant that I had grown from a seed, was all the "high" that I needed to set a good mood for the day.

Many people see plants while they are in small pots. They may look nice enough as they are. I have learned, however, that if you plant them on the ground and give them all the room and incentive to grow, you can create a real beauty that you might not have thought possible when you saw the small potted plant.

I am a nature man, too, and I like nothing better than being with my plants in my garden. You treat them well and they respond accordingly. In a garden, nothing remains the same. Almost overnight there are changes. Plants also attract butterflies, crickets and all types of birds.

What lessons have you learned from gardening that you can share with our readers?

In the physical sense, take chances. Plant anything and everything you desire. You can rearrange them later to suit your needs. You can even create a "plant bank" so that you can grow plants under the most ideal conditions, move them, rearrange them and group them as you wish. You can keep "fine-tuning" your garden because the environment changes constantly. Sun-starved plants will wither and you change them with species that love the shade.

What pleasures do you derive from your garden?

I was not really spiritual even in my younger years. I loved sports, entertainment and movies. It was only in my later years and after visiting far-flung corners that I developed a liking for nature and the things that go with it.

In the early '90s, I made a visit to Marawi City, which overlooks Dansalan Lake. The trip from Iligan City took longer than expected, so we arrived in Marawi at sunset. The scenery was splendid. Nothing seemed to disturb, not even the clouds, the serenity and hushed environment. This, by itself, was already awe-inspiring but, suddenly, we heard the soft beating of the *agong* drums, pulsating across the calm lake, announcing that it was time for prayer. Other drums in neighboring communities picked up the rhythm moving further down the lake and the sounds moved farther and became fainter.

From that moment on, I became a nature lover



FOOTPATHS facing north



FACING south

Companionship with nature led to other things much more spiritual because I saw the hand of God in what I had seen and observed.

I also note this when I walk in the garden in the early morning to watch the light of dawn. The effect of the first sun rays on the low-flying clouds can best be described as magical, but the problem with mornings is that the moment of magic is so very brief. It does not take long before the fierce sun transforms everything into bright and even dazzling light.

Late afternoons are the best. The bright sunlight is transformed into so many varied hues, growing finer and mellower with each second. Sounds from awakening insects seem to permeate the now cool air and even the sound of passing motor cars are now muted.

Peace fills the land as the first morning rays flicker in the distance. There is a momentary darkness and then, suddenly, the skies that were dark only moments before are bathed in light from stars that are suddenly visible.

This is when I become completely spiritual. The hand of creation is evident. I know that there is a God and that He is responsible for all this. My garden is among the things that help me brush aside, even for a moment, what is sordid, dirty, demeaning and unjust in this world.

I know I built myself my own "Camelot." You, too, can do the same as long as you believe that whatever you have, no matter how modest, is your own "Camelot."

Where do you buy your plants?

In the early years, I got most of them in plant gardens around Manila. I eventually zeroed in on the Calamba-Los Baños area in Laguna and Silang in Cavite. Lately, I have been scrounging around the areas closer to Tagaytay where new plant gardens are opening.

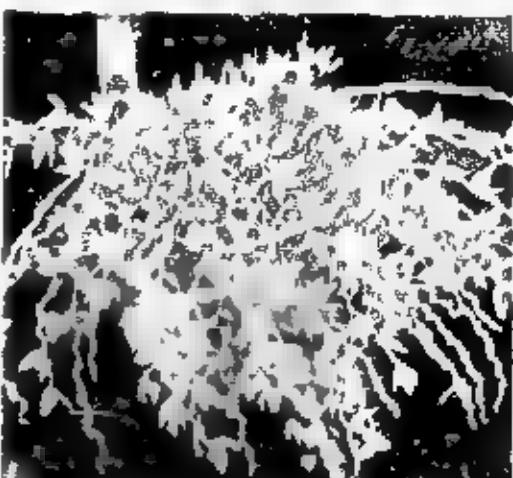
I have also become friends with smaller plant shop

owners who are also collectors. I come across some good plants from them every now and then but usually, when I see them, the conversation is always much better.

Any tips for other garden lovers?

If you have a seed and do not know what it is, plant it and find out. The waiting will give you patience. You will learn to hope, say a few prayers, too, and display unusual exuberance when the first leaf appears. If a shop has a seedling but they do not know what it is, buy it anyway. It would not have been in the shop if they did not think it was of some value. Some of my best plants came via this route and when you win, you could win big.

E-mail the author at adje@pacific.net.ph



BLOSSOMS of the pygmy date palm



CLIMBER. The big-leaved philodendron



CLERODENDRON pagoda plant provides shade for a juvenile acacia (right)



MULBERRY tree at post-inflorescence

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Feeling at home with Tessie Tomas

(From page C3)

Of course, Tessie shares the house with her husband, Roger Pulin, a fish biologist by profession who has made a career in the local entertainment scene as a singer and recording artist.

The couple bought the condo unit in 1994 after they got married.

One room has been converted into Roger's workstation, where wooden fish, books and music sheets are in a happy clutter. It also has a mini-recording studio.

Art pieces

Now that Robin has decided to stay in New York, where he's enrolled at the Parsons Institute of Fashion Design, Tessie wants to convert his room into a meditation nook with a retro bathroom.

Tessie says she likes to buy little things for the house. So from her travels in and out of the country, she has accrued all sorts of items, which are displayed around the condo.

From Thailand, she brought home a wooden Buddha, which serves as the centerpiece of a long rectangular table below a Belgian mirror in the receiving area. Beside the Buddha is another art piece from the Chatuchak market in Bangkok.

A different Buddha from the Portobello flea market in London stands alongside Roger's little jade Buddha sitting on a chest. Both pieces are on top of the center table in the living room. The table is made of glass and wrought iron from Arte Espanol, where Tessie also got her dining table.

Coffee-table books on "100 Women of the Philippines" and "Philippine Ancestral Weave" are the only reading materials in the living room area.

A wooden TV cabinet from Baguio, an antique divider from Indonesia and an antique Chinese table from Tessie's mom, Laura Hermosa, are the other furnishings in the living room.

A geometric clock stands outside the master bedroom, a gift from Roger's daughters. Adjacent to it is an antique chest given by Tweetums Gonzalez. On top of the chest is Robin's oil painting of a gondola in Venice.

Tessie also buys house decors from local shops. The chandeliers in the dining area and bathroom were bought from Makati Cinema Square, while a lampshade was purchased from Old Asia. Noted artist

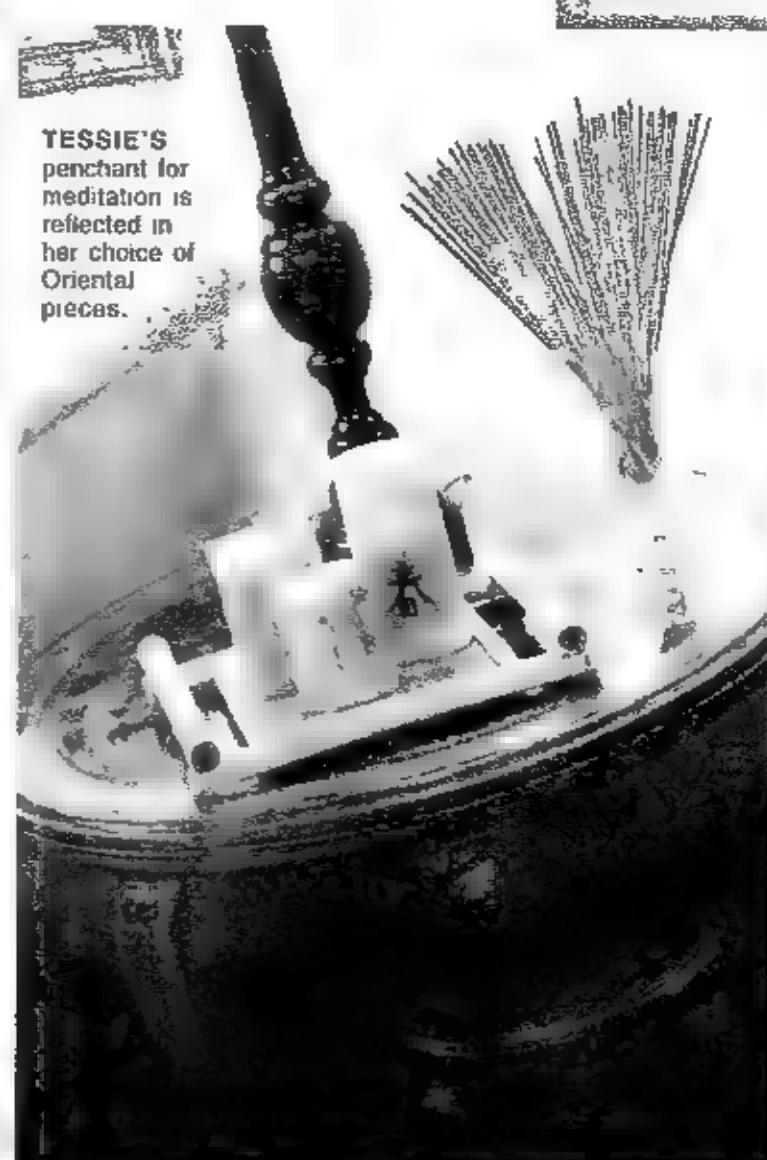


FOR CONDO living, use light color scheme, mirror, scaled furniture. The exception is the European armoire.

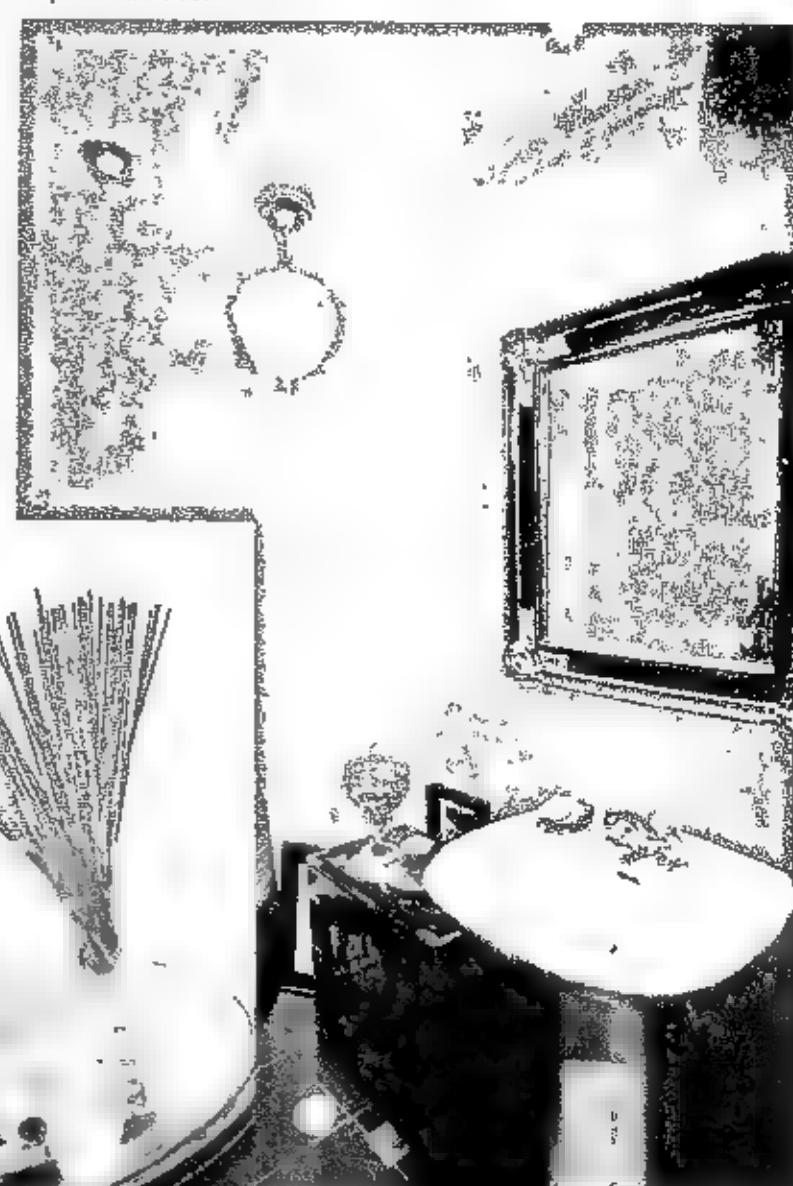


THE DINING room makes a departure from the conventional setting. The design is tucked into a corner. The seats consist of a variety—a banquette, a cane-backed chair and upholstered side chairs. A ledge holds artworks.

The design of the TV hostess' condo may amaze many who regard her as traditional. And that's where the element of surprise lies



TESSIE'S penchant for meditation is reflected in her choice of Oriental pieces.



RED, the color of passion, makes a powerful statement

potter Lugi Bigyan from Quezon gifted Tessie with a large vase when she interviewed him for her weekly show.

The only TV set in the condo is the one in the living room.

"Roger doesn't want a TV or phone inside the bedroom because that's where we talk," Tessie explained. "After 9:30 p.m., we don't take calls anymore. It's Robin calling from the US, he simply leaves a message in the answering machine."

The result and design of Tessie's condo may amaze those who've never seen her as someone with a conservative and traditional style.

But that's where the element of surprise lies, as Tessie likes to say.

Whose 'Anak' Is It Anyway?

Freddie Aguilar faces a copyright battle which is bound to set a precedent for other aggrieved composers



SUNDAY
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

July 15, 2001 Issue



GIANT hydrangeas



MEDINILLA magnifica



MUSSAENDA doryas In UP Los Baños



SEMI-TERETE vandas

Gardening ideas grow at Orchidarium

BY TITA V. GIRON

THE ORCHIDARIUM and Butterfly Pavilion at the Rizal Park is no longer the simple orchid park designed six years ago by the Clean and Green Foundation to serve as a repository for vanishing native plants.

Re-launched last November as a theme park, it now offers plenty of attractions including a beautiful rainforest, pocket gardens, butterfly bavens, art gallery, fine dining and sports facilities. It was a dream come true for Clean and Green founders led by Former First Lady Ming Ramos. In her words, the Orchidarium has become "the garden, a fitting tribute to nature."

Obviously, people don't mind paying the entrance fee (minimum group rate is P45 for student, P60 for accompanying adult) to see the gardens, walk between waterfall and rock wall, fish a little with hook, line and sinker or scale a rocky trail,

Lush and green

Garden fancies have various other reasons for visiting the Orchidarium. Some go there for the educational lectures and demonstrations on garden plants, similar to the series held during the recent Flower Power-Green Power Festival. Most of us, however, find it a good place to get inspiration or borrow ideas for special landscaping designs suitable to city gardening, particularly where pollution and lifestyle pose special challenges and demands. Needless to say, the park is right in the midst of one of the most polluted cities in the world, yet it is lush and green. And before

it was transformed into an urban idyll, the area used to be a car park.

"There's no secret to the lush and green gardens in the Orchidarium," park forester and chief caretaker June Alvarez told us. "We recreated a natural habitat for trees and plants with a waterfall and ponds to boast. The birds and the bees, so to speak, are back. As in the forest, the plants and the insects depend on each other for survival." Alvarez is also an entomologist or a scientist who specializes in insects. Two horticulturists from UP Los Baños, Jigs Gonzales and Jaja Lava, tend to the plant requirements at the various specialized gardens in the park.

Orchids

Semi-terete vandas and fire orchids bloom profusely in one of the specialized gardens identified in the park map as "Ring of Fire" zone. Unlike most orchids that need to be grown inside shade houses, the hardy plants are planted directly under the sun.

"Grow them together," orchid growers Vic Chin and CV Lazaro advised us when they gave lectures on orchid growing during the garden festival.

Semi-terete vandas and fire orchids, they explained, are grown in the same area for practical reasons. They have the same sunlight requirements and they support each other since they need to grow vertically.

"When the plants are healthy, they are not easy targets of pests. However, they need various formulations of fertilizers to become healthy and to bloom profusely." They informed us further that fertilizers are available at commercial garden centers.

Pond and Heli-pad

"If you want a fast-growing plant for the garden pond, try the Quiapo or water lettuce plant. These beautiful plants are called Quiapo because of a legend that tells the origin of Manila's Quiapo district," Alvarez pointed out as he gave us a tour of the Exotic Pond were a thick carpet of "Quiapo" or "Kiyago" water plants covered the entire surface.

A clump of Nymphaea water lily with a solitary flower gave credence to the name Mystic Lagoon where one is supposed to feel mystical while meditating or feeding the hungry carps.

Don't look for helicopters in the zone called Heli-pad, which is actually the heliconia garden. The zone proves that heliconias thrive and bear flowers in city gardens. Planted side by side, they form a natural fence that blocks ugly spots in the garden. Their flowers are bright and colorful, hence the names of Orchidarium heliconias such as Sexy Pink, Caribea, or Crab's Claw.

Hibiscus and Donyas

There are several other gardens to view, but the most interesting ones are the Hibiscus and the Donyas gardens because they showcase different hybrids, mostly created by Filipino plant breeders.

Named after outstanding Filipinas, the hibiscus developed by Dr. Rey Pimentel of the Institute of Plant Breeding include Tandang Sora, Oryang, Marcela Agoncillo, Lolay Teodora Alonso, Nay Isa, Teresa Magbanua, Ningning Trinidad Pecon, Nuzaria Lagos, Gabriela Silang, Gloria Montoya and Hera Agueda Kahabagan.

The 11th hibiscus hybrid was named Sentenarya to celebrate the Philippine Centennial Year.

The Donyas garden at Orchidarium proves that Mussaenda plants grow lush in city conditions. They are all named after the Philippines' First Ladies, minus Lot Ejercito.

In the collection are Donyas Hilario Aguilardo, Aurora Quezon, Paciencia Laurel, Esperanza Osmeña, Trinang Roxas, Alicia Quirino, Luz Magsaysay, Leonila Garcia, Eva Macapagal, Gimung Imelda Marcos and Ming Ramos.

For more information, call June Alvarez at 527-6376 or 527-6378.

E-mail the author at mgiron@cs.com.ph



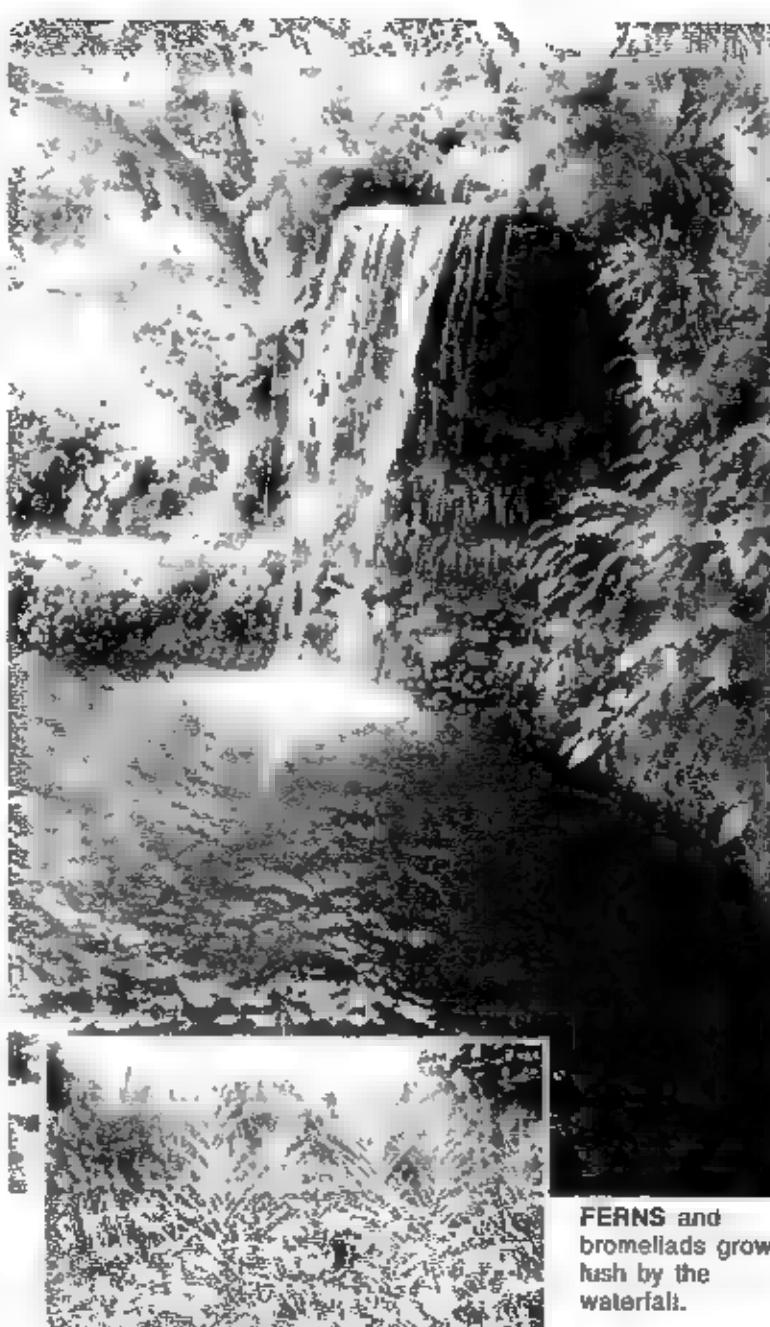
MEDINILLA magnifica



BUTTERFLY dries wings on ornamental ginger plant



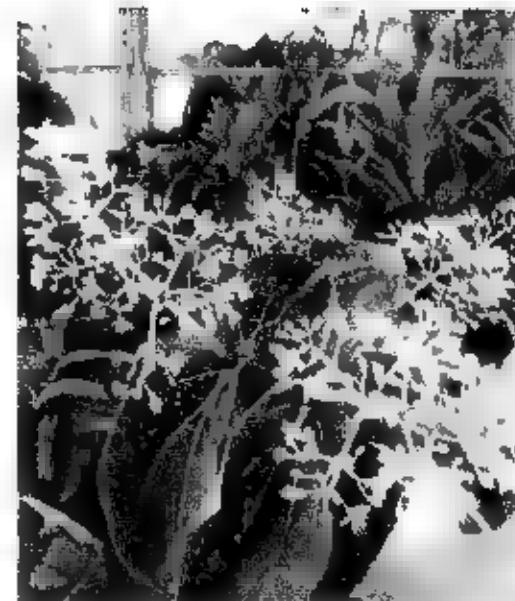
ORCHIDARIUM guest lecturers Vic Chin and CV Lazaro with park forester June Alvarez, horticulturists Jigs Gonzales and Jaja Lava



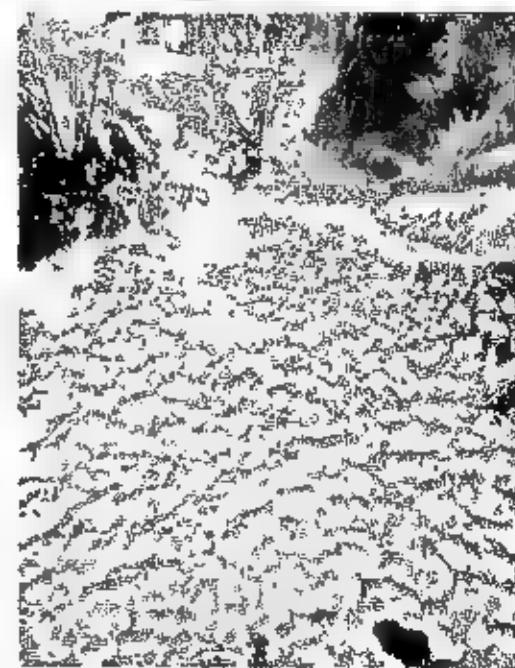
SEMI-TERETE vandas on driftwood

FERNS and bromeliads grow lush by the waterfall.

A fitting tribute to nature, the Orchidarium not only features a rainforest, gardens and butterfly pavilion but also hosts lectures and demonstrations on the environment.



POTTED medinilla



LEGENDARY "Quiapo" water plant at meditative pond



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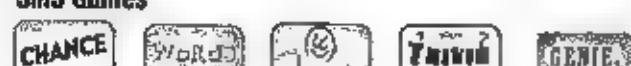
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WINNERS of Cathay Pacific's International Wilderness Experience essay contest were supposed to leave for Rustenburg, South Africa this July. They were to spend nine days in the company of some 50 other Asian students learning about nature, its beauty and most of all, its care. In the process, they would have learned about each other.

But circumstances beyond the essay contest committee's control have compelled it to cancel this year's trip to South Africa.

Nevertheless, the essays the Filipino contestants submitted are too good to forget. They reflect their understanding of the environment. Many of the contestants are already involved in environmental projects in their schools or communities. And

SEEING GREEN

Doris
Gaskell
Nuyda

this interest shows not only in their essays, but also in their response to questions of contest coordinators.

Alfonso Tomas P. Aranillo, 18, is a graduate of Philippine Science High School and this year is enrolled in a course in Applied Physics scuba diving. He also participates in cleanup activities.

Pamela Joy M. Mariano, 16, a Philosophy freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University, joined the Cathay Pacific essay contest last April, with the hope of visiting the South African wilderness this July which is the winners' prize. The airline conducts the essay contest annually to choose four young Filipinos to join other Asian students for an International Wilderness Experience, an opportunity to witness nature in its pristine best and learn how to conserve it.

For this reason, the contest theme has always been the environment and its many aspects. Participants are allowed to select which of those aspects they wish to write about. Not all make it. But sometimes, the messages conveyed in the essays are too important to ignore.

Pamela didn't have to go too far to choose her theme. Incidents that frequently occur in her neighborhood provided her with a built-in theme. So she writes about people from across her street who need a nudge prodding to make them more concerned about their surroundings.

Like an artist, she uses color as a devise to bring home her point, which is: While there are litterbugs everywhere, there are also the diligent ones who pick up after them, bringing in the "bright, ye low" optimistic note of her story. So, as we did last week, we are reprinting one more essay here.

A bright yellow raincoat

"When it rains, water swirls out of the clogged drain across the street. As a car drives through the current, the water splashes out onto the sidewalk. It swirls out of the storm drain, carrying empty packets of chips, plastic take-out glasses, worn-out slippers, cardboard. The water swirls about his ankles as he wades to the green garbage bin and dumps the soaked debris into it. He repeats this several times until instead of flowing outward, the rainwater flows into the storm drain, as it should. The man in the yellow raincoat walks back into his apartment carrying his rake."

"I watch from my bedroom window, wondering when others like me will have the courage to put on a yellow raincoat, carry a rake and brave the rain."

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(Story on page D4)

(Story on page D2)

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Givenchy's Big Mac takes a bite into the big league

JULIEN McDonald, labeled Big Mac by the French fashion press, illustrates one of the clothes in week's haute-couture showings in Paris. Classic and modern, the 28-year-old designer boasts about the allure and sexiness his clothes have when worn by the right woman.

Big Mac describes the Givenchy woman: "So French, your little black dress. She is formed by the silhouette, exuding only elegance. Sometimes she reserves the surprise on her shoulders. A woman ought to mysteriously surprise."

Paris goes rich and romantic

WHILE the Philippines is down in the dumps with news of bad finances and kidnappings, the spirit in the French fashion world is as buoyant as its economy.

Emanuel Ungaro. Don't ask the price for gilded, feathered splendor. Only a handful of women can afford these suits and gowns. There were plenty of leather numbers appliquéd with flowers and a few with a tie-dyed look.

Sexy little minis came out in beautiful lace, sometimes gilded, while a boldly white-stitched flared black jacket with big patch pockets could fit into anyone's wardrobe.

Some of the hooded djellaba style coats in soft fabrics hark back to Ungaro's fascination with North Africa in the 1970s.

The evening dresses were deliciously romantic and always splendid with the big feather bouquets worn like corsages at the shoulder. Many were topped with luscious, colorful brocade wraps and coats.

Tiered slim silk evening pants were extraordinary graded from gray at the waist down to pink—and the tiers were edged in sparkling crystals.

Scherrer. Designer Bernard Perris had a couple of hits and some misses. The dramatic long black velvet evening coat with white, feathery trim was a good operatic number.

A sober tuxedo style with one flared leg split and filled in with chiffon was a new filip for this popular trouser suit. A lacquered red snakeskin suit fluttering scarves from the bodice or the mini outfit with long, trailing fringes, as well as the Christmas-tree balls hanging from a man were turnoffs for women with more elegant tastes.

Givenchy. Welshman Julian McDonald drew mixed reviews for his debut at Givenchy. He followed on the heels of English designer Alexander McQueen, whose towering, sculpted suits and eccentric costumes were remarkable for their amazing oddities. McQueen now pursues his own label under the aegis of Gucci.

MacDonald, already known in London for his eccentric knits, decided to return to silhouettes and sobriety associated with Hubert de Givenchy. Some found the dark and rigorous collection lacking in excitement, but a former client, Celia Sue Nace, found it "chic and magnificent, something elegant women would wear."

MacDonald was apparently aiming to put couture sobriety back in place here—with the slim leather skirt and its chiffon blouse with ruffled sleeves, the sheath dresses with chimney collars, cuffed or draped backs. Details like beading, tucks and a few frills filled in for excitement.

Valentino. Still celebrating his 40 years in couture



VERY Chanel by Karl Lagerfeld

after glittering celebrity parties last fall in Rome and Los Angeles, emphasized the theme "Look rich."

His favorite colors—red, black, white and a tad of lavender—came up throughout, as did a long, flame-red wool crepe suit with sable trim and a short dress.

Ruffled blouses and ostrich feathers allied to practical details like black pencil pants and white shirts, striped pantsuits with fur touches all made appealing day wear. Then the party clothes exploded with cutouts, tiers, flounces and beading.

Jean-Paul Gaultier. Slick pinstriped suits with low hip pants under Soya-brown chiffon tops are tailored or tunic-style jackets struck an original, elegant daytime note.

There were Suzie Wong-style raised collars and silk details in the clothes with fanciful names like Triads, Fu Masochi or Chinese Torture, a beautiful bolero-topped suit with less pigskin trousers plus touches of black taffeta.

Gaultier's ideas were overflowing: plumed pom-poms on a willowy transparent top over hip-hugger



JEAN-Louis Scherrer

pants, sable-fringe capelets over slim trousers, a big Soya-brown trench-style coat lined with saffron brocade. Monkey-fur and feathered skirts, or big feathers used to emphasize the shoulders.

For evening, there were some outstanding tailleur outfits. There were also sparkly numbers, like beaded, sequined georgette trousers worn with a fitted, draped overcoat in light crepe wool, and the deep blue short skirt outfit with Chinese-collared bolero and jet-beaded

bra.

Donatella Versace. Her

show was a lesson in attitude and had a certain sex appeal. The theme was an oft-seen wild-animal inspiration.

Versace's game park featured many minis in luxurious fabrics with ocelot, zebra, tiger prints, plus plenty of shiny beaded embroidery.

Models in huge

boleros over silk skirts with moon-shaped cutout motifs. Silvery leaves adorned fitted minidresses. Long or short pastel crystal and rhinestone-embroidered dresses, with elaborate trains, were glitzy enough for anywhere.

Chanel. Karl Lagerfeld stunned his audience with an all-trousers show.

Pants ranged from very jeans to slightly flared. Skirts were relegated to tunic status to go with the pants, even in the most dressy organza or sequin-embroidered evening wear.

The whole collection was desirable couture at its best, from the first bouclé piped wool trouser suits with boxy fitted long jackets to glittery evening ensembles.

For daytime, the tweed suits came out in browns, soft beige plaid, autumn russet, grays and deep burgundies, plus grape and plum. Slim lines meant rather slim pants, and the longer jackets were belted at the waist or a bit higher.

Evening looks included plenty of pearl and bead embroidery, shiny sequins, ruffled tunics with the pants. Some flesh-colored chiffon or organza and lace tops over slim pants gave a sexy note.

Some beautiful blue silks for the pants and tunics, see-through laces and fabrics and plenty of expensive costume jewelry gave this collection personality.

Christian Lacroix. He adores balterma styles with elaborate tutu skirts, harlequin looks with sparkly multicolored miniskirts, or lady ladies with hints of Spain in red and black.

There was a gray fitted patchwork silk jacket with its pink and gray tiered feathered pants. And a musical number with a décolleté satin jacket, huge ruffled and bubbled sleeves, a fuchsia-black skirt wrap over black lace tights.

Other outfits gave a wild harlequin look by mixing up different sequined shapes and fabrics on the sleeves and pants. The show was a gorgeous display of the couturier's art and his workshop's skill.

Hanae Mori. For daytime, this Japanese designer offered well-cut green plaid suits with pants or skirts, nicely adorned with sparkling butterfly pins—Mori's trademark. Those who want fantasy could opt for the copper leather jacket over its dress of Chantilly lace with puffy copper and beige ruched ribbon effects on the skirt.

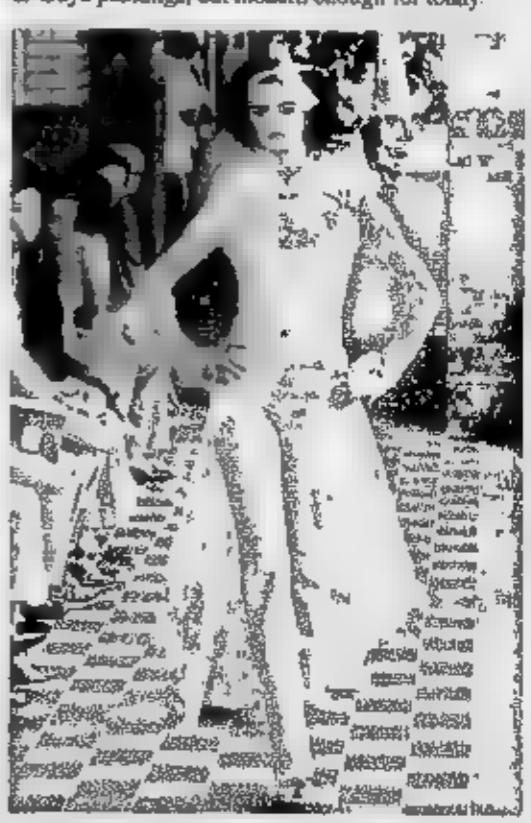
Those who want the traditional but exotic Hanae Mori will look at her fabulous mink-trimmed, hand-painted Japanese kimonos.

Bauman. Oscar de la Renta presented slim, slightly fitted silhouettes in dresses and coat dresses cut to the knee, had a "Jackie O." appeal.

Silky tweed trouser suits with straight, slim pants and draped-front jackets were fine for daytime. Big fox toques and collars, and an occasional sable coat added the most expensive touches.

Choices for evening, besides the wildly Luxurious brocade-lined sable coats included a simple black draped jersey evening dress topped by a shocking pink taffeta coat.

De la Renta laid on an extravagant show of pretty red and black dresses—almost straight out of Velázquez or Goya paintings, but modern enough for today.



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KARL Lagerfeld

Seduce with strong eyes and wet lips

NINA Ricci's new collection focuses on passionate eyes.

The two new shades of Mono eye shadow are Turquoise Vibration and Bleu Laser. Their high concentration of pigments gives the really intense colors and perfect hold remaining absolutely true to the palette. These Mono eye shadows ensure silky-smooth application with no caking.

Whether intense or soft, the electric blue style can fit her ever-changing moods. For intense look, the eyelid is smothered with Bleu Laser—a profound color, from electric to navy blue. Violette d'Or is a deep, heavy shade of violet with shimmering metallic reflections. For a soft look, Turquoise Vibration drifts toward green with a slight gold shimmer. Its texture makes it possible to play on slight variations ranging from pure turquoise to aquatic green. Bronze Dore is one of the classics from the Ricci palette that suits her excellently to produce an ultra-sophisticated finish.

The Nina Ricci Wet and Dry Pencils are essential team players in the electric blue collection. They contribute to the bold graphic style of the makeup.

For vibrant lips, Nina Ricci has a Protective Lip Gloss (SPF 10) in a transparent pink or orange sparkle of energy. The shades are either soft or intense.



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Green tea is an ancient Oriental favorite. Today, scientific studies demonstrate that it offers extraordinary health benefits. Green tea has been found to have antioxidant properties. It has been found to inhibit cancer cell formation, reduce cholesterol, body fat, blood pressure and sugar levels, protect against bacteria and viruses, and even tooth decay.

The main health-promoting substance in green tea is a group of plant chemicals known as polyphenols. Long known as tea tannin, polyphenols constitute up to 30% of dissolved green tea. Green tea is processed in a way that preserves these natural chemicals. Compared to black tea, green tea may contain as much as 90% more polyphenols.

Anti-Cancer Agent

Polyphenols have anti-oxidant properties, which means they fight free radicals which harm the body's cells. They are also known to inhibit the formation of cancer cells. The popular habit of drinking green tea with meals in Japan is thought to be one of the reasons for lower rates of these cancer types in that country.

Cardiovascular Aid

Green tea's anti-oxidant properties also aid in preventing the formation of fat cells in the arteries, thereby reducing this major cause of heart disease.

Evidence suggests that green tea's polyphenols have an anti-clotting component. Clots in the bloodstream prevent the normal flow of oxygen to the heart and brain and can be fatal.

In one study of 2,000 men, aged 49-55, those who drank more green tea (up to 10 cups) a day were found to have lower levels of LDL, or bad cholesterol than those who drank less. Green tea has been found to reduce LDL while elevating HDL (good cholesterol) levels.

Polyphenols also inhibit the action of ACE, the enzyme that induces high blood pressure. At the same time, it can help lower blood glucose levels, as an aid to diabetes maintenance.

Anti-Bacterial, Anti-Viral

Green tea has long been a folk remedy for diarrhea. Recent studies reveal that polyphenols are powerful anti-bacterial agents that inhibit the growth of a range of infectious bacteria, and make some bacteria more susceptible to specific antibiotic treatments.

Japanese researchers have found that green tea polyphenols prevent the flu virus from attaching itself to

normal cells. Evidence also suggests polyphenol action against viral infections that cause diarrhea.

Perhaps the best-documented antimicrobial effect of polyphenols is against bacteria that cause tooth decay. Substances in green tea have been found to completely inhibit the growth of oral bacteria.

Studies continue to be conducted worldwide on the health benefits of green tea. But one fact has been established. Drinking up green tea regularly is necessary to realize these benefits.

Nativa is naturally brewed green tea in a convenient package. It's also available in ginkgo and redpush tea varieties. Serve chilled. You'll love it fresh, naturally sweet taste enhanced with a hint of lemon.

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A Cool Change For The Healthier

Green tea has been the Orient's favorite all-day daily beverage for centuries. Today, it has proven to be a rich source of polyphenols, powerful antioxidants that gently cleanse the body of harmful substances, while lowering cholesterol, blood pressure and sugar levels. Drinking green tea brings about what ancient Orientals referred to as "restful alertness."

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Calm down, it's not the end of the country

WHEN I wrote the other week that the "future is not in here," many e-mailed in their conviction—for or against that prognosis. I don't want to ignore them.

Among them was a young woman whose boyfriend had migrated to the United States and had asked her to follow him. She doubted that she would, she wrote, because "I may not be rich or poor here but there's one thing I couldn't trade for the rest of my life I'm happy here and I'd choose to help our countrymen solve these crises than not to have tried at all. Nothing could replace what I have here (family, friends, Youth for Christ, etc.). This is my home." That it came from a GenXer is a wake-upper.

Another came from an older reader who "did rather well financially abroad." But, he wrote, "I still have doubts, even remorse about the whole thing. I guess all immigrants experience these self-doubts no matter how attached they are to their adoptive country. It is even more intense when one starts feeling like a foreigner when visiting this homeland."

That e-mail reminded me of an admission from a successful Filipino I ran into in New Jersey last month. When he became a US citizen, he said, as he took his oath of allegiance to America and thus renounced his Filipino citizenship, he cried for it was like saying goodbye to a happy childhood, a lifetime.

On the edge

These days I wonder if such sharing from those who had gone abroad would be enough to hold back some people from leaving, or at least make them see things in perspective—beyond the blur of ugly headlines.

This feeling of standing on the edge comes even when you're not reading or watching the news. Even when you're safe and seated in the office, the doomsayers walk in with their last thumbs-down.

"My girl friend was driving in Sucat last night at 11:30," Boots, our marketing director, barged in on our meeting, "and there was this car full of men pointing at her tires. She knew it was a ruse, but she slowed down to glance back at her tires, without getting out of the car. But she knew better—as this car pulled up beside her and was clearly about to cut her, she held her phone to her ear as if she was talking to someone, and with her other hand, held up her gun. A toy gun, but that

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sison San Juan



wasn't obvious in the dark. Seeing this, the car sped away." Smart girl—a Filipina already wise to the ways of her crime-infested streets.

Then it was Harriet's turn to give her story. Just last Sunday morning, she said, as their car was at the stop light on C.M. Recto, they saw this old woman waiting to cross the street but a group of thugs pulled at her ear to snatch her earring. They got it and left her ear bleeding. Harriet and her companions stopped and brought the old woman to the hospital.

Okay, I get the drift. Criminals (uniformed) are on the loose—no, on a rampage—in our streets and you don't have to be a rich Tsino to be a victim. So to some, this is a signal to queue up at the Australian or Canadian embassy.

Roman Jinx

But if criminality were enough to make you bail out of this country, then haven't you heard that we don't have a monopoly of it, its randomness and brazenness? Just this week I learned that our friend, high-society photographer Alex van Hagen, was at the Rome airport checking in with our good friends Maurice Arcache, Bob Zozobrando and Cheche Lazaro. Their hand-carry pieces were in a cart. Alex looked away and in a split second, Alex's bag containing his expensive cameras, wallet and credit cards was gone.

They went to the Rome airport police who took down the case as routine as if they were listening to the weather report, the police said they got at least 20 such cases a day. Just that morning, they said, a woman's handbag was slashed at the bottom right at the checkout desk, right before her eyes and those of the airline staff. So big deal.

So if you can jet-set to Europe amid its crimes, why can you not pretend you're going on a "jungle safari" (my friend's term, not mine) every time you step out and onto our streets?

But seriously, it's not the actual

crime incidence that disheartens many, it's the contagion of fear and uncertainty. Larry Cruz, the restaurateur and incurable bon vivant, put it so well as he echoed the mind of hoteliers and restaurateurs (first to be hit by bad tourism, domestic and foreign): "It's not so much that business is down—business has been down before—as the fact that people are being engulfed by this sense of fear." It's this lack of confidence in our future that you can feel in the air. It's as if you pressed the loser's mode button, then put it on an auto pilot.

Doom talk

"I was telling my wife," Jim Paredes told me, "that for the past 20 years we've wrestled with the same political problems. Nakakapagod na. Do we want our kids to go through the same political problems? This has run for generations."

(By the way, the "Conversations with God" celebrated author Neale Donald Walsch, who was here recently, gave a beautiful endorsement for Jim's book "Between Blanks" after he read it. His blurb, to be used as marker for Jim's book, reads: "Here are the world's great truths, in the language of the soul. Uplifting wisdom such as this is a treasure. Here is where God resides—Between Blanks. The words here are a gift for the heart." Jim will come out with a 3-CD set of the talk Walsch gave at Meralco and PICC.)

From what I hear, young couples who are migrating say they're doing it for their kids. When you see the *implos* or military men lying through teeth again—before the news camera, or you drive down C-5 that's still covered with plastic trash, you think these couples are making the right choice.

But honestly, I haven't really looked—or wondered—that far ahead where my own kids are concerned. I believe that children, as they grow up, make their own fate, wherever they are. I won't even attempt to think or say that they'll be safer in Melbourne or Vancouver than they are here. The future is not a sole matter of immigration demographics—or of social security systems.

Your kids can get hurt, starve or get rich here as they can in Queens. You can talk safety or you can talk fate. I remember our magazine editor Carlo's story about his cousin's son, a 15-year-old, who was at the wrong time at the

wrong place in school. He was in the restroom as a student barged into it and fired away—he and another boy were killed. That was the infamous shooting in school—another one—in California this year. This boy was a Fil-Am.

Trivia

As a foil to the doom talk, I like to turn trivial and list down the comical/more reasons my friends and I are staying put here. Making this list has become our pastime (when we want to look away from the bottom line):

Chikaron—at the JFK Airport New York, a customs man with a pat-belly greeted me with a grin: "You have *chikaron* with you?" I wanted to ask him, Lapid's or Baliwag's? They must now be on red alert also for *chikaron*, not only *bagoong*.

Miriana vowed she's leaving the country, so we guess it's all right to stay now:

We can't be a nurse; not the sight of another asshole, please;

We can't live without mards or drivers; piracy laws are strict in the US;

We didn't make it to Newsweek's list of The World's Worst Countries

We can't cop out now and let the bad guys win.

Modesty aside, we're all needed

Nobody said rebuilding and people-powering would be easy. Democracy is not a fairy tale, and it's not for faiers. So let's get a hold of ourselves, it's not the end of the world or the



NIEVERA with Mom Conchita

Philippines. But we should balance this optimism and forbearance with tough political will.

More on the hospice

FOR PEOPLE who inquired about St Michael's Hospice Foundation, here is more info—it is headed by Dr. Cynthia San Luis as president and Sonja Roces as chair. Since 1996, Dr. San Luis and her group have seen over a hundred patients and helped them in their homes.

Through the years they have learned more and more about hospice service and for five years now, the home-based program has been in place. It was this year that Marisa Lopez Grassi got involved in it. (To answer the readers' e-mail, I'm forwarding them to the right parties.)

Martin and Mom

THE OTHER weekend, I saw another parent-child bonding, of sort. Lydia

Castillo and I went with Conchita Razon to Martin Nievera's concert at Greenbelt's Onstage Theater. Martin is Conchita's son (take note of the bi-ling, for the mother is as interesting as the son, if not more). I had never seen Onstage as packed as this, additional chairs had to be put on the aisle. For good reason.

Martin gets better with age—and with pain. It seems. In his 30s, not only has he carried over his original teenybopper fans to this stage of his career and to his repertoire, he's also dragged along the GenXers and GenYers, and the Third Age (the *lolas* and *lolas*). His concert was a bursting package of hyper-energy, wit, incredible improvisation and good cross-section music.

I perked up to his versions of my sons' sounds. I loved his take on my '70s and '80s hits (Steely Wonder, especially) and I appreciated his salute to Broadway's "Phantom of the Opera," etc. (for his mom and his mom's friends, he said, rubbing it in).

He didn't only work up the audience, he also pushed his wit and adlibs on them in a way that would scare a less confident performer. And, thank God, Conchita knocked on wood, he hasn't been told off yet. He also hilariously mimicked Johnny Mathis, his dad Bert Nievera and Gary Valenciano (with wife Angell thrown in).

It's when he performs that he is really himself. He forgets his problems.

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because the peso is practically only half what it was worth just four years ago. The anguish comes from being a Filipino—what we have become and how we could have allowed our nation to fall into such unspeakable depths.

Choosing to stay and suffer, and wait for things to get better, appears to be a masochistic exercise. Even the apathetic can no longer act deaf and blind to the problems and the seeming hopelessness that has replaced the euphoria of the last week of January. The best solution seems to escape, to gather one's belongings and try to reinvent one's self in another country where the air is cleaner, the opportunities greater and the future brighter.

For those of us who braved the 20 years of martial law and refused to give up our citizenship, the events taking place are more traumatic. For those with families, the children will always be the primary reason for wanting to move to countries where prospects seem better. And for those in midlife, who never considered moving but are now busy preparing for their departure, the reason and agenda are clearer. They have given up hope and they do not intend to spend the rest of their lives in a nation that never learned its lessons.

One is shocked to learn the identities of those who have left or are planning to leave. Even those who have been revered as shining examples of Filipino dynamism have painfully made pines or already transplanted themselves. They have given enough, even so much, to their country but they are now moving on because they see no more reason to stay.

Easier said than done

They may be branded as traitors, cowards and opportunists. Many will equate nationalism with a do-or-die attitude, placing their personal interests aside and surrendering everything for the service of the country. But this has become easier said than done. All the slogans, all the noble gestures and statements have suddenly become too familiar—like the tired promises of politicians during the campaign period.

We cannot expect miracles. We have reached our quota of divine intervention and we should not expect our country to be resurrected with the same dramatic impact as the parting of the Red Sea. We are fools to think the months of Macapagal-Arroyo in office can create a complete turnaround considering what she has inherited and what she is facing. We are even bigger fools to believe the people in government will be suddenly blessed with tongues of fire and become zealous of righteousness and accountability.

What we are experiencing now is the result of all the negligence, hypocrisy and apathy of the people vis-a-vis their nation. We are seeing the fruit of historical and political events.

By now it is quite clear. We don't need yet another drastic change of leadership. We require a change of the people.

We talk about being Filipino, yet we are exporting our people to create little Philippines all over the world. We talk about national pride, yet a few will take pains to avert an apparent national humiliation.

Hip.

HIP.

Hooray!



beyond
Hip
KONKSTER RADING

THE LAST time this happened was when Ninoy Aquino was assassinated. Before that, it was when martial law was declared. The same kind of tension lingered in the air. No amount of consolation or even optimism could soothe frayed nerves and ease the feeling of hopelessness. When Ferdinand Marcos showed his muscle, the people cringed. When Aquino's blood was spilled on the larmac, the citizenry felt betrayed. We've been there and done that... and here we go again.

Every day the peso sinks to a new low. No, this is not what People Power 2 promised. Everything was supposed to turn our fine. Although wiser people did not think that removing the Actor from the Palace would send things roaring and rolling, many believed, or liked to believe, that there was going to be change. A change for the better, a chance to restore the dignity of a country so battered by the twists and turns of politics that an entire nation seemed to be free falling.

There was talk about New Politics, of idealistic young lawmakers wanting to strip away all vestiges of the national cancer. There were grand statements, even more grandiose promises that we can pick ourselves up and join our Asian neighbors on the road to economic and political recovery. It was not easy being a citizen of a country considered the embarrassment of Asia, an example of how democracy can go so wrong when handled so immaturely.

The price of heroism

Democracy has gone so wrong that we bail out our OCWs (overseas contract workers) as the "Bagong Bayani," as if heroism can be measured by the amounts of American dollars sent back to the country even if they result in dysfunctional families. This heroism has led to an entire generation of Filipinos who grew up without their mothers and/or fathers, professionals who line up in employment agencies and embassies hoping to find a better future anywhere but in their Motherland. Mothers and daughters have become domestic helpers at the beck and call of foreigners while fathers and sons have become laborers, seamen and whatever because their country cannot assure them of a future.

We are dismayed by the tumultuous events in the South, the rise in carjackings, kidnappings, robberies and other crimes. Despair is all around us. In Quezon City, you cannot even feel safe parking your car because of numerous accounts of vehicles stolen in broad daylight.

So is it surprising that almost every other fresh graduate wants to get out of the Philippines? Does it still shock you many people insist you and your family should always have valid passports in case you have to make a quick getaway? Do you wonder why astute business people advise you to convert your pesos into US dollars and deposit them abroad because the Philippine peso has the strength of Monopoly money?

Unspeakable depths

The pain experienced by the citizenry is excruciating. It is not only

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BY FRED WAGNER

SHERMAN'S LAGOON



BY JIM TOOMEY

BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Harrison Ford, Cheech Marin, Patrick Stewart, Jack Kemp, Didi Conn, Giancarlo Giannini
Happy Birthday! OK, so you won't be certain about your personal life or direction, but think of the possibilities that exist in your professional life and put your efforts into your work, educational pursuits and travel. You can't lose if you keep busy and move forward in a positive manner. The worst thing you can do this year is sit idle waiting for others to do for you. Get moving. Your numbers: 6, 19, 23, 25, 31, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You need to do something about the lack of harmony in your personal life. If your partner won't help, then you might have to consider moving on to a more tranquil setting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 19)

You will be tempted to get involved in a secret affair. It's not worth the aggravation. Try to avoid situations that could lead to a lack of trust and dishonesty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 19)

Don't be daunted by criticism. Unreliable people will be negative. You can't waste time worrying about those you can't sway. Work on the rest who understand your reasoning.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Emotional upset will be due to deception where partnerships are concerned. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your communicative skills will help you persuade others to see things your way. Don't stop at that, put yourself in a leadership position. You have a lot to offer and everyone knows it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You will tend to overspend on children, friends, entertainment and whatever else tempts you. Don't be surprised if your partner tries to cut you off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Don't push your luck or your lover. Make an effort to keep the peace. Nothing is worth the emotional loss you will suffer if you don't play fair in your personal life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Be careful when dealing with co-workers. They may twist your words. Be prepared to make changes. Your stubbornness will hold you back. Leave your work at the office.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You need a change of pace. Look into activities that will take you in new directions and introduce you to new friends. Boredom is your worst enemy. You need to take control of your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Expect someone you live with to cause trouble. You are not likely to rectify the problem easily. If he or she wants to leave, so be it. You must reconsider your reasons for being in this situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Put your efforts into promising activities, and get back to basics. Your desire to travel will lead you into unknown territory. Someone you live with won't be happy with the changes you make.

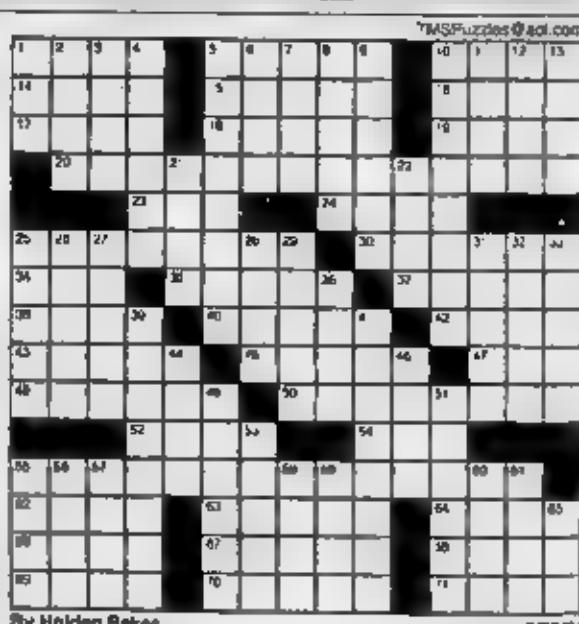
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Don't spend needlessly. You will have a hard time handling it if your partner insists on being extravagant. Put your time into satisfying but inexpensive projects.

DAILY CROSSWORD

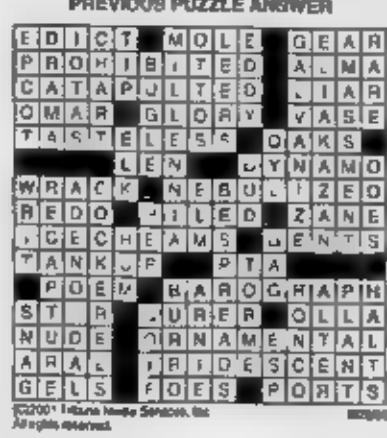
ACROSS

- 1 Light tan
- 5 Coarse file
- 10 Iowa State location
- 14 Bank deal
- 15 Bring to bear
- 16 Eye signal
- 17 Wise Men
- 18 Vitality
- 19 Gibb or Garcia
- 20 South-of-the-border drink
- 23 Function
- 24 Oklahoma city
- 25 Indy 500 location
- 30 Computer snag
- 34 That's folks!
- 35 Eagle's abode
- 37 January in Spain
- 38 Molten flow
- 40 "Still Me" writer
- 42 Wildbeasts
- 43 Slightly inclined
- 45 Awake and aware
- 47 Tiger's peg
- 48 Authoritarian ruler
- 50 Checkers, in Chelsea
- 52 Columnist Caren
- 54 Pedro's Mrs.
- 55 North-of-the-border song
- 56 Part of U.A.E.
- 63 Transparent
- 64 "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" composer
- 65 Bosun's whistle
- 67 Plains tribe
- 68 View from Cleveland
- 69 Ago
- 70 Yarns
- 71 Horn honk



By Holden Baker Greenfield, MA

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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- 44 the line (obeyed)
- 51 Tithe amount
- 52 Vinegar bottle
- 53 Firefighter's career?
- 56 At all times
- 57 Language symbols
- 58 Rubbed-out spots
- 59 Song by Verd
- 60 Change direction
- 61 Ribbed cloth
- 62 O-ring, e.g.
- 63 Light wood
- 64 Small group
- 65 Dogcatcher's profit?

A. LIPIN



BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY



BY P.M. JUNIOR

SIMO



BY EDGAR DIONELA

BI GANG



BY ATS11/FA/FEVG

BEN



BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS



BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HI AND LOIS



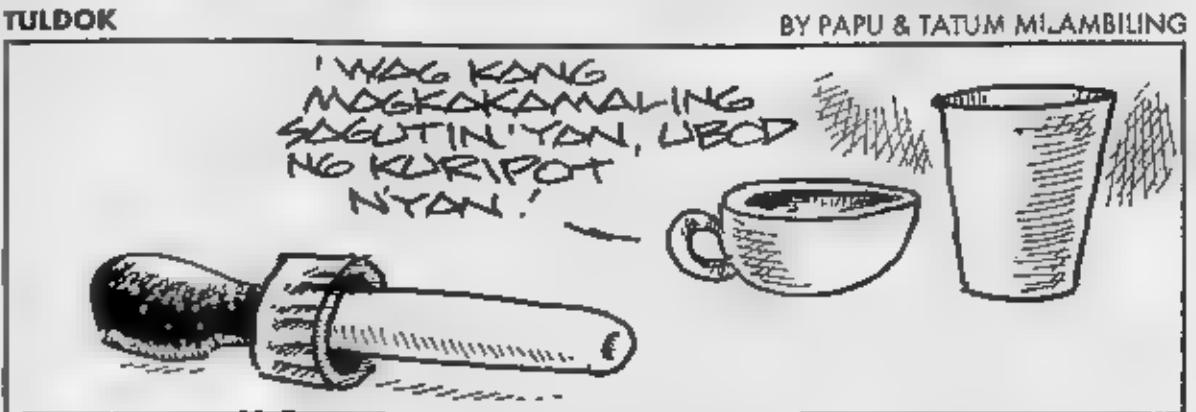
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS



BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK



BY PAPU & TUM MILAMBILING

Birthday Baby: You are quick, to the point and eager to get things done. You will amaze everyone with your intelligent approach to everything.

A hall-of-famer American designer

Halston: An American Original
By Elaine Gross & Fred Rottman
228 pages

BY CHERISH GARCIA HERNANDEZ

AS fashion reverts to the '70s and '80s, designers are getting ideas from people who revolutionized the way we dress. One such icon was Halston, whose minimalist designs, pantsuits, sportswear, shirt dresses, twinsets and draped columns are considered classics.

Bill Blass calls him the "quintessential American designer." His movie-star good looks, high-flying lifestyle and glamorous friends made him THE designer of the '70s. He dressed all the beautiful people of that era. Grace Kelly, Liza Minnelli, Elizabeth Taylor and Bebe Paley were his regular clients. He partied at the famous Studio 54 with pals Andy Warhol and Bianca Jagger, and he held court at the Olympic Tower on 5th Avenue with the spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral serving as a backdrop.

Household name

In the book "Halston: An American Original," fashion assistant Elaine Gross and former Halston assistant Fred Rottman succeed in demystifying the man whom many consider as the pantheon of American design.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, Roy Halston Frowick had always gone by his middle name to



HALSTON and Bianca Jagger at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual Costume Institute dinner in 1977

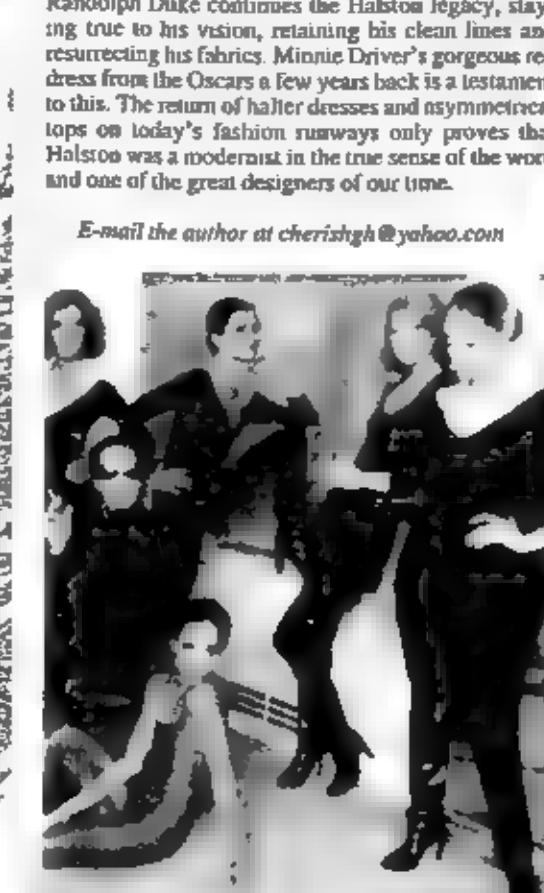


LEE Radziwill's tie-front, one-piece strapless dress became one of Halston's signatures

HALSTON went against the tide of couture and fantasy by creating minimalist looks such as this bias cut silk tunic and pants in 1976. Heads would turn if a woman wore a Halston pantsuit for dinner



REVOLUTIONIZING the asymmetric neckline



INSPIRED by his collaboration with Martha Graham, Halston revolutionized the bodysuit which is known today as the unitard.



HALSTON'S pillbox hat worn by Jacqueline Kennedy at the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as president of the United States in 1961 set the trend in millinery

avoid being confused with an uncle named Roy. Halston was actually taken from his maternal grandfather Halston Holmes. The young Halston showed an inclination for design by dressing up his sister and making her walk down Main Street to see other people's reactions. He ended up designing hats in Chicago. In 1959, he left for New York City to work for the famous French milliner Lilly Dache. After only two years he was named co-designer. He later was hired by the department store Bergdorf Goodman, where he became the store's first designer to have his name placed on the hats he designed. This was a feat that his successor Adolpho failed to accomplish. At that time department stores only carried their own labels. Working in a store like Bergdorf's offered Halston the opportunity to meet many influential people.

But it was in 1962, after designing the famous pillbox hat that Jackie Kennedy wore to her husband's inauguration that Halston became a household name. Oleg Cassini designed Jackie's dress but Halston was the designer behind the hat that was copied across America.

Halston ventured into clothes when he designed his first RTW line for Bergdorf Goodman in 1968, he opened his own salon and quickly became the most-sought after designer of the disco decade.

Gross and Rottman's well-researched and intimate account of Halston's career reveals a Halston who was more than just a designer. He had an innate sense of style shown in his clothes. They write, "Halston believes that all clothes should be as comfortable and easy to wear as sportswear, but elegant at the same time. Almost more important than the way they looked was how they felt on the body. That theory set the precedent from which modern minimalist fashion was derived." Halston reinvented everything, from the twinset to the caftan. He used fabrics like matte jersey and his signature Ultrasuede. His classic elegant asymmetrical dresses and tie-front strapless one-piece dress can still be worn today and look very modern.

Sense of drama

Halston also had great flair and a sense of drama, which added to his appealing image. When the airline Braniff sponsored an Acapulco junket as publicity for their newly designed Halston uniforms, Halston and his models (fondly called Halstonettes) made a grand entrance to the beachside party. They arrived in boats, each wearing a different style of black bathing suit, huge mirrored lens sunglasses, huge black straw hats and Elsa Peretti's diamonds by the yard.

When they went on a whirlwind tour of China, Japan and France, Halston and his entourage arrived at the JFK International airport in 10 limousines. And in his office, everyone had to pause when Sister Sledge was playing and the line "Halston, Gucci, Fiorucci" came on.

Although his critics could not understand what the fuss was all about, the designer known as "Mr. Clean" ingeniously created dresses that had no buttons, zippers, darts, seams or trimmings—nothing to detract from fabric and style, very much like the revered Madame Gres.

Unfortunately, Halston licensed his name to 31 different products including bed sheets and luggage, and later had legal problems using his own name, which led to his demise. In the beginning he was very "hands-on" and the success of his signature fragrance in the teardrop Elsa Peretti boules was evidence of this. However, when the CEOs started to think more of profitability even at the expense of artistry, Halston lost control. In 1990 he succumbed to AIDS and died in his sleep.

Today, the Halston name is alive again. Designer Randolph Duke continues the Halston legacy, staying true to his vision, retaining his clean lines and resurrecting his fabrics. Minnie Driver's gorgeous red dress from the Oscars a few years back is a testament to this. The return of halter dresses and asymmetrical tops on today's fashion runways only proves that Halston was a modernist in the true sense of the word and one of the great designers of our time.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

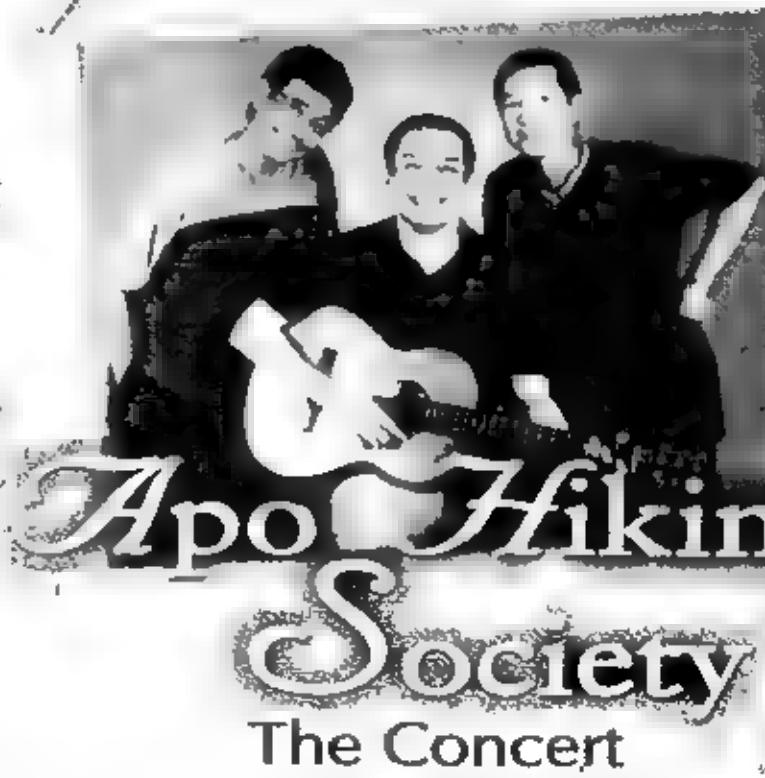
Halston transcended the disco decade by reinventing everything in fashion, from the twinset to the caftan

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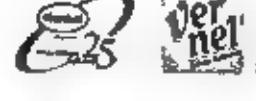
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PRICE P18.00 Reg. Price 19.50	PRICE P34.75 Reg. Price 35.75	PRICE P21.00 Reg. Price 22.50	PRICE P30.75 Reg. Price 33.25	PRICE P98.75 Reg. Price 103.75	PRICE P94.25 Reg. Price 97.00	
PRICE P37.25 Reg. Price 41.25	PRICE P48.25 Reg. Price 50.50	PRICE P13.25 Reg. Price 13.95	PRICE P4.50 Reg. Price 4.60	PRICE P71.00 Reg. Price 72.75	PRICE P22.75 Reg. Price 23.50	
PRICE P75.75 Reg. Price 79.75	PRICE P265.25 Reg. Price 273.75	PRICE P15.00 Reg. Price 16.50	PRICE P49.50 Reg. Price 54.50	PRICE P19.50 Reg. Price 21.50	PRICE P19.50 Reg. Price 20.75	
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PRICE P9.00 Reg. Price 9.50	PRICE P33.00 Reg. Price 34.50	PRICE P67.50 Reg. Price 71.50	PRICE P10.50 Reg. Price 11.50	PRICE P16.50 Reg. Price 18.25	PRICE P26.00 Reg. Price 29.75	
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LIFESTYLE



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Jupiter in Cancer brings hope and promise

BY RESTI H. SANTIAGO

ACCORDING to the wisdom of astrology, the planets, despite their distance, play a significant role in the development of life on earth. The planets' movement sets the flow of trends to come. The most noticeable among the planets is Jupiter, mainly because of its size and positive influence.

Jupiter will be moving into the zodiac sign of Cancer on July 13 till Aug. 2, 2002. This means that trends for the next 12 months will be centered on this feminine and home-loving sign.

Business

Jupiter is the biggest planet and astrological symbolism associates it with expansion. This indicates that there will be an abundance of things ruled by Cancer and there will be mass attention on domestic matters. Hence, there will be renewed demand for home decor, appliances, decorating materials, and even larger homes. As the stomach is also connected with Cancer, good food will also be much appreciated by more people.

Enterprising businessmen will benefit if they will ride along this business trend. Women are particularly favored during Jupiter in Cancer periods and we will see more of them rise in the business arena.

Relationship

On relationship matters, much improvement can occur. Jupiter is strong in Cancer and it can function well in this sign. There will be an abundance of loving feelings and due to this, families, friends and lovers can get closer to one another. Family members will now devote more time for the home and family. Entertainment that caters to the family as an audience will be well received. Games and movies that the whole family can enjoy together will be in demand. More unmarried couples will tie the knot and have babies during this period. Naturally, baby care and other products for babies will do well in the market.

Individuals

On the personal level, this influence of Jupiter in Cancer can make us more attuned to the call of emotions. If for the past 12 months, we put

JUPITER/ p.E3

The astrological formation indicates good opportunities for the growth of our economy and even international recognition for us as a nation



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LAUCHENGCO

DELICATELY feminine diamond earrings and necklace with br clette diamond dangles in 18k yellow gold

Beauty reminds us of who we are

Anything beautiful has the character of grace to it.



INTRICATE set of color-change garnets in smoky brown hues. Multistrand garnet bead necklace with fine diamond centerpiece, binders and clasp; grape-design earrings and ring with cognac and white diamonds, all in 18k white gold

Beauty awakens the soul by mirroring it, and the soul sees itself.



It does
not let us be
indifferent,
but is
inherently
provocative

Beauty enchantia, Drawn by its power,
we stretch beyond ourselves and grasp
for more light and love.

SLEEK and black-coated silver earrings and ring



OPULENT classic ballestado earrings with marquise and brilliant-cut diamonds in 18k white gold



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ROCKWELLTHE RETURN
of color-deep
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and pendant
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Jupiter in Cancer brings hope and promise

(From page E1)

much emphasis on the outer world and on the gathering of facts, we should now be open to the depths of our emotions. What we thought right then must now be "felt right" in order to complete the cycle of knowing and being. This period is also good to look back at our past and release ourselves from inhibiting emotions of hurt, guilt and low self-esteem. Only after that can we truly harness the caring and loving energy of Cancer. To achieve wholeness, it will be worthwhile to return to our roots and renew our ties with our past. It will serve us well on the psychological level if we give our parents, especially the mother, what is due them.

The country

On the national level, Jupiter in Cancer brings promise and hope. The most commonly used chart of the country is based on the July 4, 1946 horoscope, which gives us a Cancerian nature. Jupiter is now going to bring luck to Cancerians (as well as the other water signs, Pisceans and Scorpions). This means that there will be more opportunities for the growth of our economy and even international recognition for us as a nation. These positive influences will become more definite starting halfway through the cycle of Jupiter, which will be early next year, when Jupiter touches the country's Sun and the Macapagal-Arroyo government's North Node.

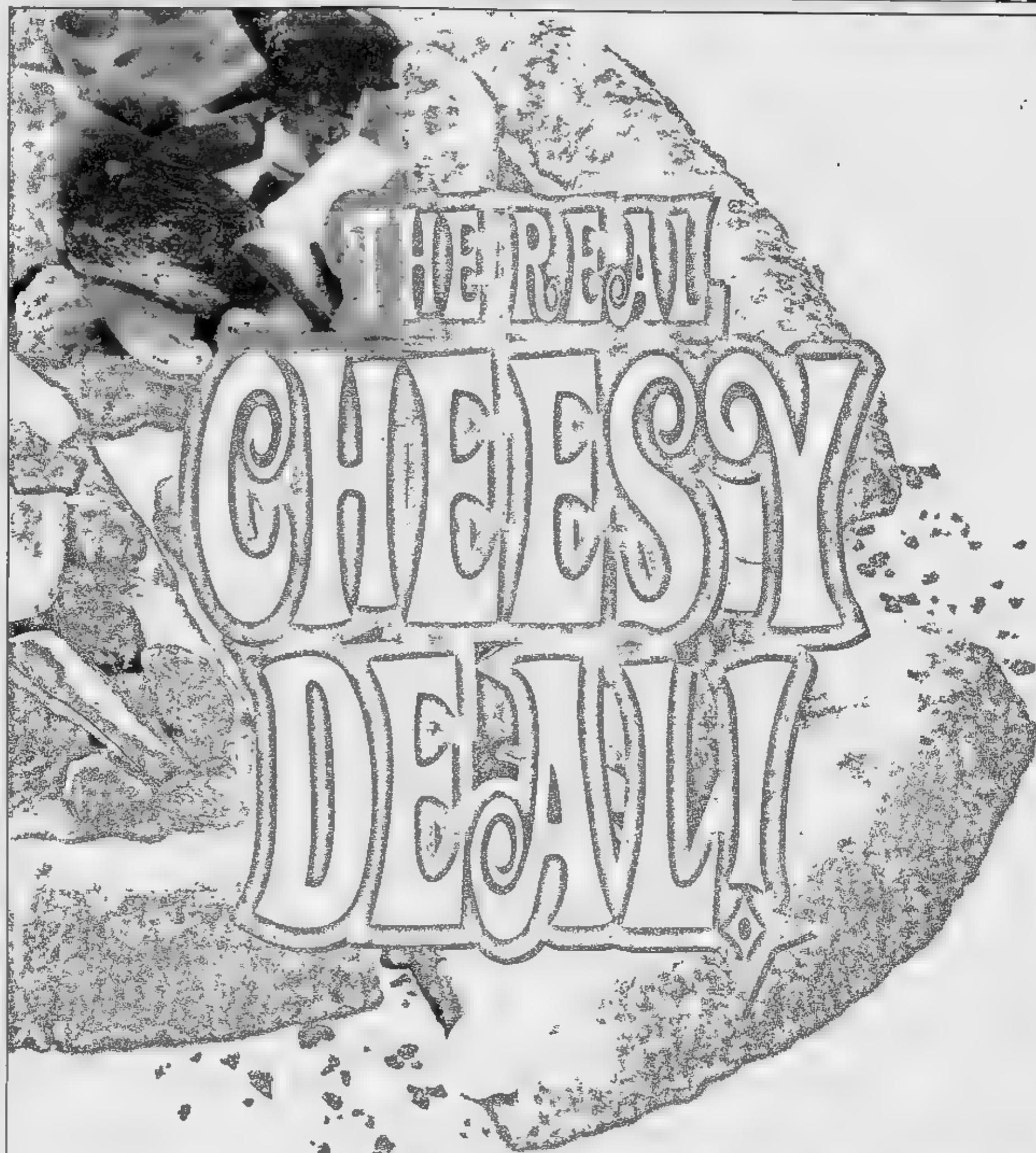
Warning signs

However, the country has a lot of issues to resolve and work on because the problems of our past are very much around us. The transformation of our collective psyche must continue. With the eclipse along Cancer-Capricorn axis on June 21, July 5 and Dec. 30 there will still be many challenges for the country.

Eclipses point to issues that must be addressed with urgency. Around these dates the issues are of right governance by our new leaders and the problems of food, shelter and security of the masses.

During this period we must show our solidarity in maintaining the gains of Edsa II, in learning the lessons of "Edsa III," and in working for genuine change in ourselves and in our country.

To know more what Jupiter in Cancer has in store for each of the zodiac signs, log on to www.pinoyastrologer.com. Surfers can also avail of free astrology readings.



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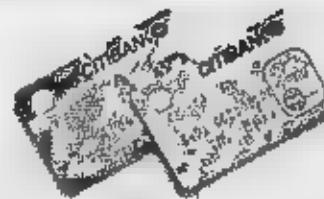
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JAIMBT Licensee of Inner Mind Development Institute conducts seminar on "Soul Mates, Karma and Reincarnation" on July 14, 1-2 p.m. and "Basic ESP and Intuition Development" on July 21-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Km. 308 Prince Plaza

GOINGS-ON

Bldg. 1, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati. Call 892-6806 or 810-7245.

BOOK SIGNING Vincent Boudreau, author of "Grass Roots and Cadre in the Protest Movement," will sign copies of the book on July 16, 4-6 p.m., at Ateneo Press booth of the Academic Book Fair, Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman. The book takes us behind the scenes of rallies and mass gatherings. By letting us see what happens before and after the banners are unfurled, the author invites us to speculate on the social dynamics of protest. "Grass Roots" and all other Ateneo University Press books will be sold at discounted prices during the five-day book fair. Call 426-5984 or 426-6001 local 4612.

CATERING SEMINAR Maya Kitchen Culinary Center holds a catering seminar tomorrow, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue, Pasay Road, Makati. There will be lessons on portion control, costing, inventory, table layout, equipment sourcing and actual preparation of popular Filipino dishes. The hands-on seminar also tackles instruction on how to prepare, cook and present dishes such as *morscon*, *garnatina*, *pork asado*, soy chicken, roast pork, baked macaroni, all-meat paella, three types of fried rice and desserts. After the class, there will be a special course featuring Maya Quick and Easy Guzman. Featured recipes are cashew window, coffee jelly, almond jelly, fruity chewy salad, 24-hour salad, fresh crab salad and *buko pandan*, with food styling preparation. Call 892-1185 or 892-5011, local 108.

ANNIVERSARY SALE La Pagayo is celebrating its fifth year anniversary by giving away discounts of up to 70 percent off on all items. Take your pick from among La Pagayo's colorful collection of casual shirts, pants and skirts. La Pagayo is also offering limited edition Leaf-fit watch for every single purchase worth P5,000 or P10,000 accumulated receipts. The watches have classic metal face and translucent strap that comes in flimsy blue and cool white colors. Visit La Pagayo at Glorietta 3, Robinsons-Ermita, SM Megamall, Rockwell Power Plant, SM Southmall, SM Manila, SM Pampanga and Rustan's Tower Sale ends on Aug. 19.

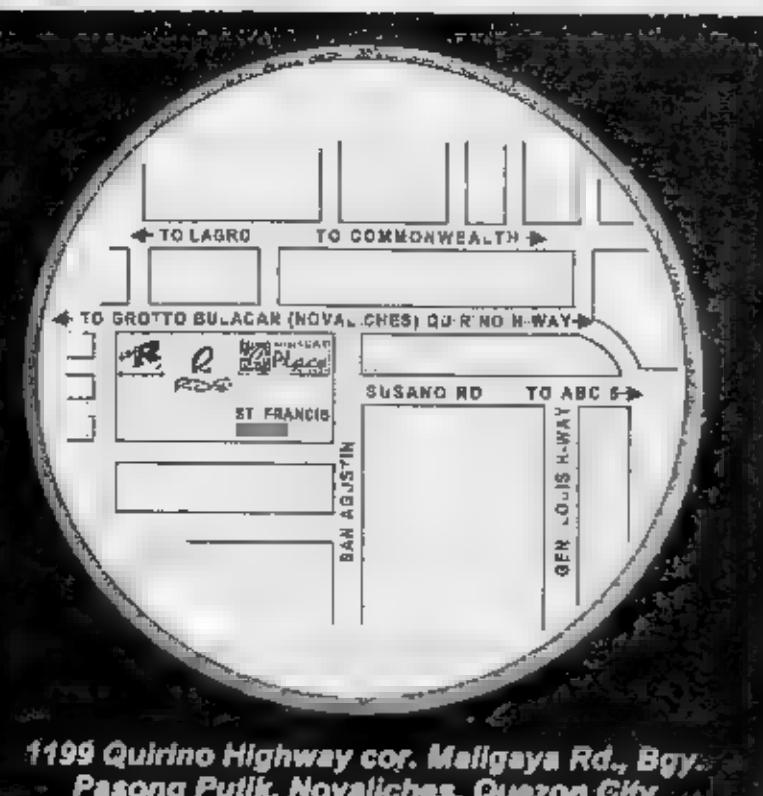
FOOD AND BEVERAGE EXPO The Expo Trade Hall, at 4/L of Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang is hosting the Food and Beverage Expo 2001, ongoing until July 18. Exhibit includes product sampling, food and beverage tasting and cooking demonstration. Call 820-7879 or 820-570.

DINNER DANCE Food Caterers Association of the Philippines holds a fellowship and dinner dance on July 17 at the ballroom of Heritage Hotel, Roxas Boulevard. Call Nina Marasigan at 911-4852 or 913-5406.

HOMEOPATHY SEMINAR The Age of Aquarius Center holds seminars on "Detoxification and Cleansing and Homeopathic Remedies for the Home" on July 21 and 28, 2-6 p.m., at UG/L 20 Cityland Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Call 751 9114 or 725-4968.



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DERRICK models Oxygen's Moroccan look—a round-neck quarter-sleeved shirt with placket details worn with tinted denim and fringed sarong.

Oxygen breathes life into fashion

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

OXYGEN aims to breathe life into the youngster's staid wardrobe. As movies, clubs and MTV fashion reaffirm the message that it's hipper to be on the fringe, young Filipinos have become more adventurous in their fashion. Therefore, garment manufacturers are creating clothes that express the wearer's individuality.

Responding to this trend, the Cebuano company has developed Oxygen, a label that's geared for consumers who want to look stylish without looking formal or just plain hip. It's different from the sister label Penshoppe.

Revival

Bernido Liu and his friends Tony Albagas, Harley Yunan and Walter Cang started Penshoppe. They were architecture graduates from San Carlos University and wanted to revive the business of Liu's mother. The Lius had a garment factory in Novaliches that made clothes for the Bacalaran market.

The young entrepreneurs saw an emerging youth market and decided to venture into Penshoppe. The business marked milestones in

OXYGEN/p.F2

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Cresilda Navarro
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Louie Villalante
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Pascual T. Almenario
Violeta Chionglo

Zenia Escalera

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Jofie Katherine Fernandez

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I had gone a-begging from door to door along the village path.



When thy chariot appeared in the distance,
like a gorgeous dream.

The
cousin
of
Penshoppe
caters
to edgy
style taste

BLUE cut-off tee
in combed cotton
worn over a
canvas drawstring
pants with tie-dyed
sash.



BLACK
bandeau worn
with flared
jeans and a
short zipped
skirt

Oxygen breathes life into fashion

(From page F1)

our history. The first day of manufacturing began during People Power in 1986. Two years later, the store branched out to Manila. The opening of the free-standing store at SM North EDSA in June 1991 coincided with the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. To the owners they seemed like omens—of the positive sort.

Penshoppe began with easy separates for teenagers. It exuded the Gap look—denims, khakis, cottons and plain patterns. Eventually, it diversified into shoes, towels and accessories.

With MTV, the rise of rave parties, clubwear and the influx of techno-toys, the market demanded more edgy stuff. They were looking for items such as pants with tons of pocket, zippers-on clothes for their gadgets. They wanted sexy outfits for the evening without looking stuffy. Guys were less afraid to show off their bodies with tighter clothing. Oxygen was developed to answer the need.

Quality control

Previously, most of Penshoppe's and Oxygen's products were manufactured locally. But with the demand for synthetic fabrics such as rayon, stretch and wash-and-wear materials, garment manufacturers find it more feasible to subcontract in China, Hong Kong, Thailand and India. These countries have factories that specialize in garments that handle special

Thy glance fell on me and I thought
cameth down with a smile.

My hopes rose high.



BUBBLES is wearing a checkered
tank top with a laced back over a
slim, short, stretched skirt. Derrick
is wearing capris and T-shirt.

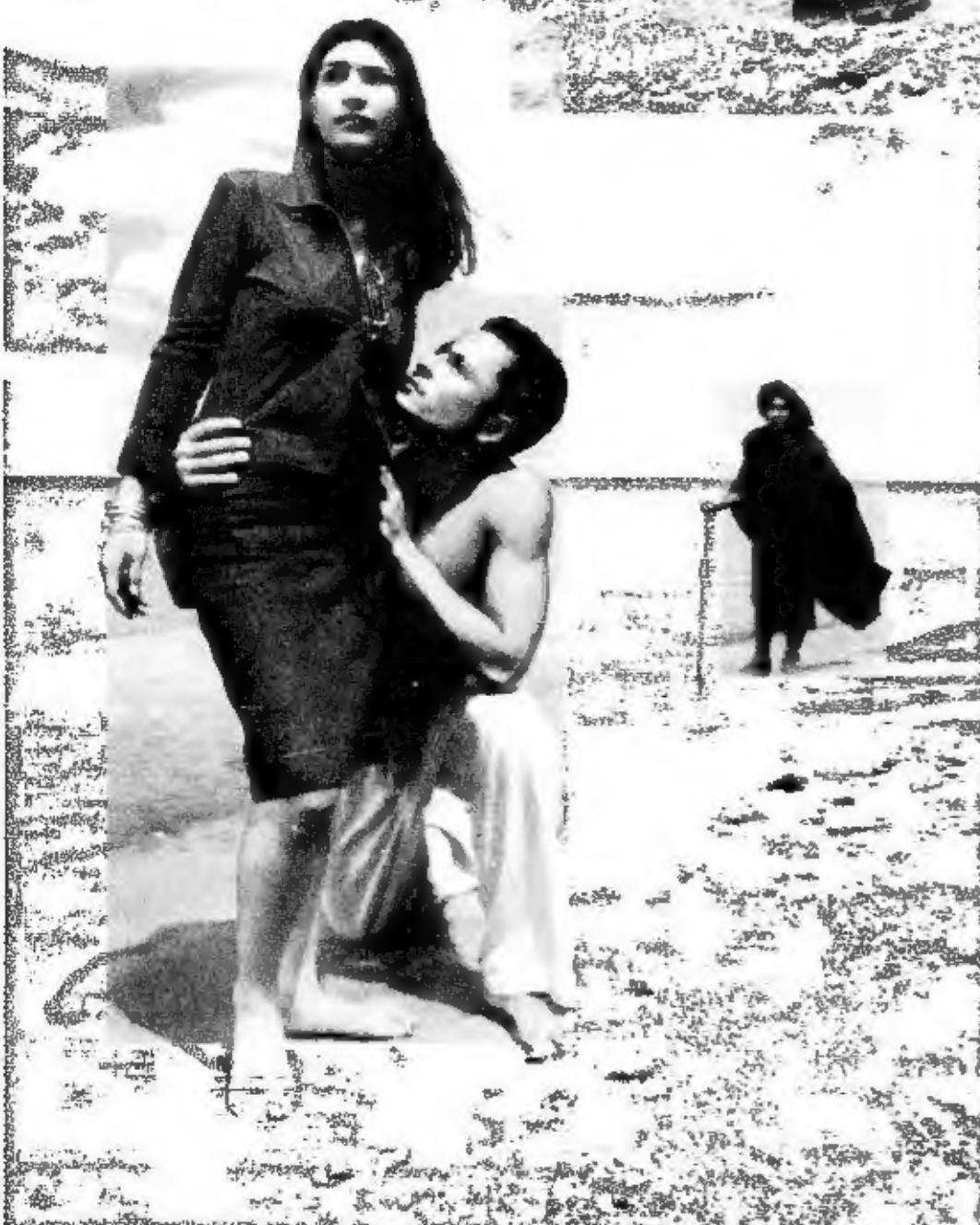
fabrics. The design team develops the idea. Quality control is checked at the factory floor with the suppliers.

Albert Ong, senior vice president for marketing of the mother company, Golden ABC Inc., explains the local garment supply chain lacks the competitive edge of our neighboring countries. Aside from the perpetual problem of lack of fabric and high production cost, deliveries of finished product are not always on time.

Oxygen has 29 outlets all over the country. Predictably, the big market comes from the urban areas. Men comprise about 60 percent of Oxygen's market. But these are not the big shoppers. They're happy with wearing a shirt again and again.

The store presents a new collection every month. For this shoot, photographer Wahoo Guerrero presents the Moroccan look by setting a romance off the African coast—actually the shoot was held in Matnud, Batangas. Kahlil Gibran's poetry interprets the mood of the photos.

MODELS: DERRICK RAMSAY AND BUBBLES PARASIO
MAKEUP BY ROBBIE PINEDA FOR SEBASTIAN TG MAKEUP



SHE'S wearing a
polycotton purple
jacket-shirt over a
denim skirt with
patched pockets.
He's wearing linen
pants.



BUBBLES wears a
cotton blouse
with pin tucks
over denim pants
with checkered
hem; Derrick
wears a muscle
shirt with linen
pants.

Pants can enhance or downplay one's appearance

PANTS are the most reliable and comfortable match to any casual getup for both men and women. As a fashion tool, pants enhance or downplay an individual's height and figure.

In an effort to inform shoppers in choosing the best pants for them, Hang Ten Phils. lists down the five basic cuts of pants and how they affect the overall look of the wearer.

• Low-waist capri or clandiggers (n.k.a. cutoffs, pedal pushers)—These are low-waist pants that end below the knees. Advisable for petite and boyish-bodied girls because they create an illusion of longer legs and shapely thighs.

• Boot-cut—Perfectly complements curvaceous and full-bodied ladies and well-built guys because it hugs the thighs and is a bit flared at the bottom.

• Low-rise flared pants—Slim and shapely women will love wearing low-rise pants because it enhances leanness and height. Usually low-waisted, it is tight on the thighs with fan-like bottoms.

• Straight cut—Low-waist and straight-line from top to bottom. This cut does not emphasize curves that is why it is

ideal for people with full bottom since it makes the buttocks look flatter and slimmer.

• Classic fit—The most popular cut. It is comfortable because of its straight bottom and room for the hips and thighs. Likewise, it apparently heightens the hips, making it advisable to skinny people.

Aside from the basic cuts, Hang Ten suggests utmost considerations on the design, wash, accessories and color of pants. The design and accessories must be in balance or in contrast with

the top. Current fashion trends must likewise be checked in choosing the color and the wash.

According to Hang Ten, a shopper must ask these two questions before finally paying in the counter the pants she intends to purchase: "How many of the clothes in my closet can be worn with this pants?" and "Can I still wear these pants three years from now?"

Pants are an investment clothing because they are tested to withstand the test of fad and time.

Hang Ten is a haven of stylish and

durable pants. The clothing shop has recently introduced in the Philippine market over 15 new designs to choose from—denims, twills or poplins that create a youthful cool look. Available at 31 stores in Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (SM and Ayala Center), SM Ililo, SM Pampanga, Gaisano Davao and Robinsons Novaliches.

Hang Ten also has fashion accessories to complete a makeover—bags, shoes, caps and belts. All items sold locally are imported.



HANG Ten
capri pants
(left) for
boyish-bodied
ladies and
straight-cut
(right) pants

Sparklers

THREE years ago, Kara Alfonso was out shopping with her friends and her aunt, Sandy Olinto. "I was shopping for a bracelet," recalls Kara, who turns 14 this year.

"Everywhere we looked, it seemed that products for teenagers were being designed by people who didn't understand what we really wanted. I kept thinking it would be great to have a shop that caters specifically to teens like us. Well, it's a good thing Tita Sandy was listening, because she gave us just that."

Inspired by Kara's ideas, Sandy decided to put up a store that would answer every teenager's need to accessorize. Thus, Jammin' Gems was born.

Kara remains an integral part of the operations as business and marketing consultants. Even the store's name was conceptualized by Kara herself. "I ask Kara to feel free to criticize everything," Sandy says.

Jammin' Gems has slowly evolved into a total lifestyle boutique—with 16 kiosks at the top malls in Metro Manila. Jammin' Gems recently opened its first flagship store at the plush Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

With her team of teens complemented by artists and senior merchandisers, Sandy closely observes fashion trends both here and abroad. "We constantly try to take the nonconventional route by combining materials such as leather with beads, rubber and copper, and even sterling silver plated in gold. We have experimented with embroidery, New Age materials and metal alloys—all for the sake of finding the right look and the proper fit," she said.

Jammin' Gems product line consists of bracelets, rings, earrings, necklaces, find toe rings. But Sandy reveals the company is ready to venture into bags, belts, CD holders, watches and even a line of footwear for the ever-experimental young adults. Sandy explains that "wearability" is another important factor she considers in manufacturing her product line. Contrary to what we first thought, teens will not buy cutting-edge items, but will instead look for those which are affordable, practical and can be worn for all occasions," she adds.

A website will be launched this June, wherein shoppers can view the entire catalog of products. "The Jammin' Gems website will help me get closer to my market and will provide them with an easier way to reach me," Sandy explains. The website will be very interactive because it also includes fashion tips while encouraging teens to share their thoughts on various topics.

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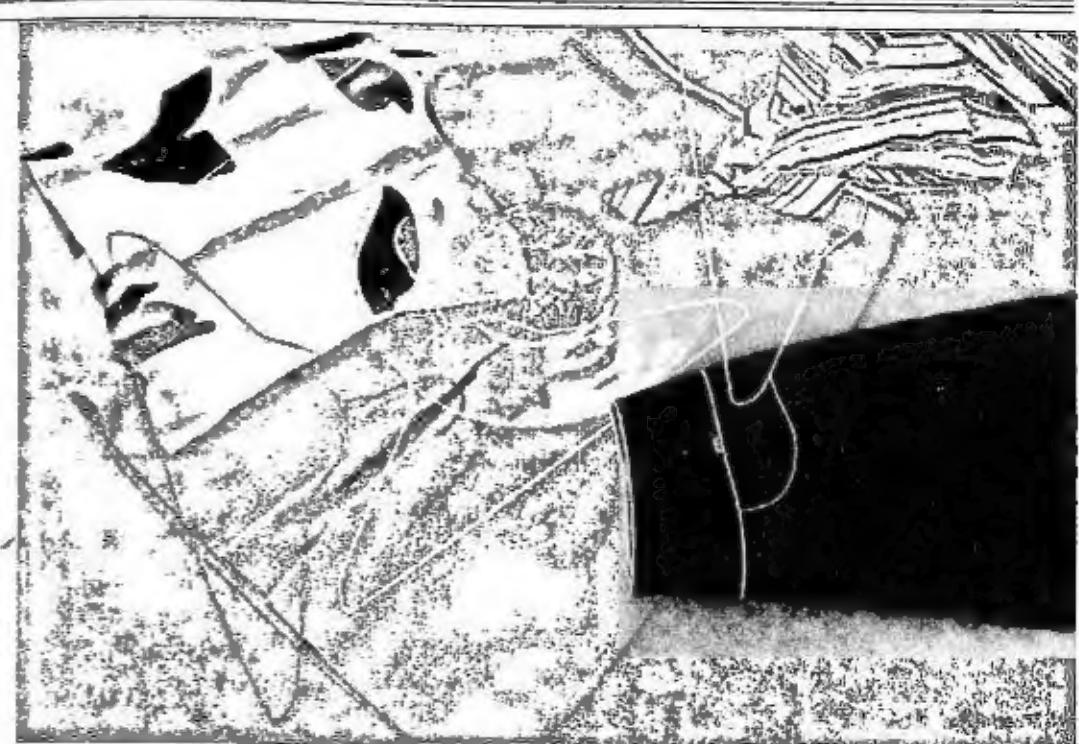
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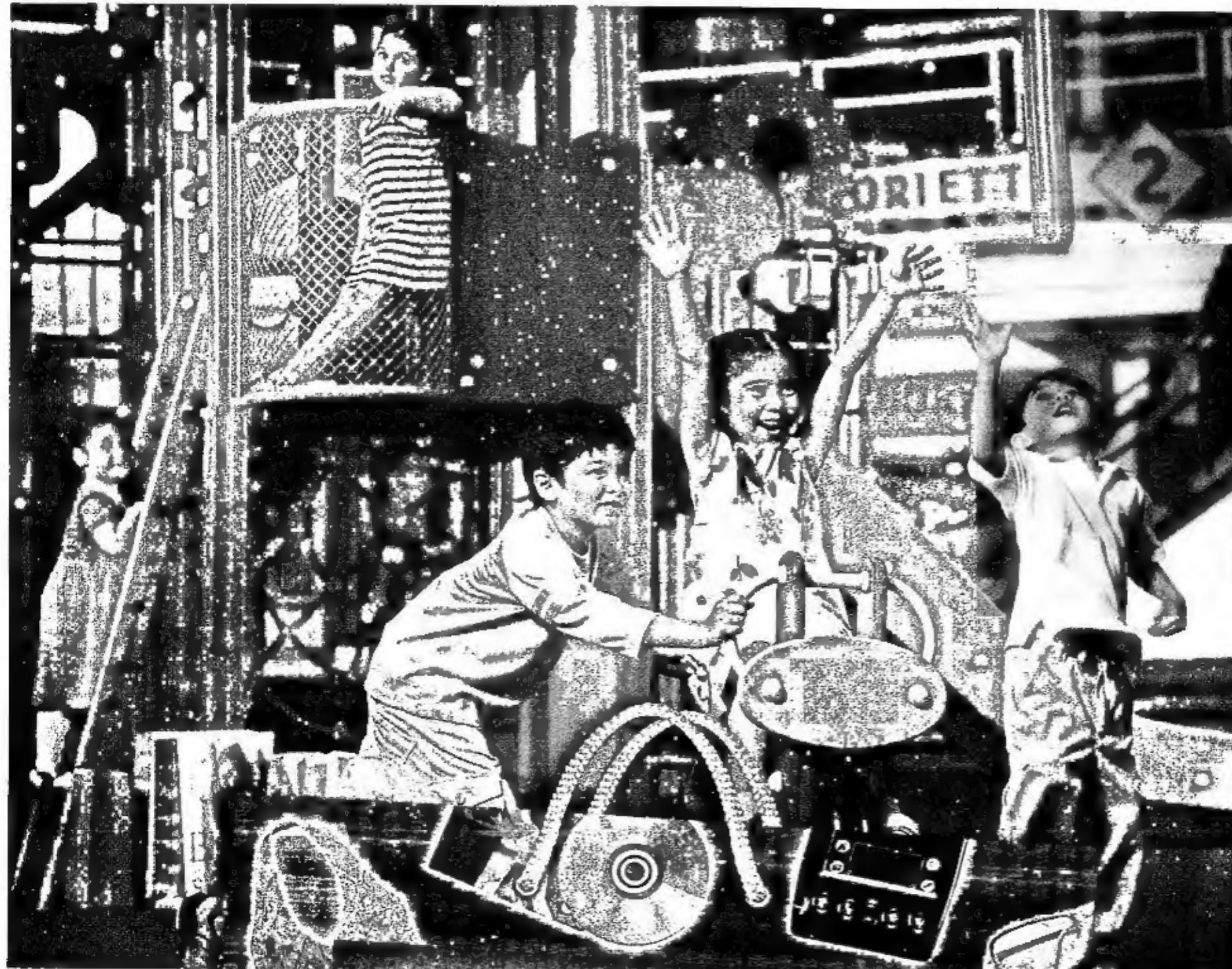


BLUE and white diagonally striped bandeau with side knot (P895); **pastel blue** knee-length skirt with front pleat and striped waistline; **red and white** diagonally striped one-sided halter with sequin floral detail; **dark denim pants** with purple border on pocket (P2,795)

NAVY and white sleeveless top with tie (P1,495); **black skirt** with side slit (P1,095); **pastel-colored, tulip-printed bandeau top** (P1,495); **denim A-line skirt** (P2,595)



Emboldened by color and print



BY CAMILLE CRUZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

THERE is something bold about color, form and print. It usually comes from an artistic perspective when done on a large scale such as on canvas. This time, bold lines and geometric patterns have been captured on fabric.

These days, when a woman wants to dress up, she usually turns to prints even in combination with a little tailored look. It is possible that she is used to the classic, basic clean lines, but occasionally, she will want to turn to prints. Now prints are getting bolder and more geometric.

Topshop, which carries what's hot in London, has plenty of these bold patterns. Arranged by trends, each section was patterned and styled accordingly.

Clothes for specific occasions are easily spotted in Topshop, the place where one can easily pick the look that she wants. The very trendy as well as the conservative can be found there.

Corporate dressing

Putting together the corporate look is easy since there are plenty of knee-length skirts, straight-cut tailored pants that do not flare so much, simply chic blouses or shirts that can go with the outfit for all seasons.

The sporty look is displayed from wall to wall. Whether you choose shorts or a skirt, pink or black, any silhouette is there for you. Colored tube tops in floating geometric shapes can be worn with the many bottoms on display for fitting.

Denim-like bottoms are a great item to wear with a printed top. Usually knee-length, skirts with a semi-A-line figure have a clean cut and centered pleat. They can be worn with a printed bandeau or any fitted top.

Prints go linear as well, not just bold and colorful. They come in black and white diagonal stripes or a combination of bright blue and white. Diagonal stripes can also be in red and white, which provide a powerful contrast to black and white.

Fun prints

Striped prints can be even more fun with an extra piece of detail as part of the top like a metallic floral accent on the strap of a one-shoulder halter top.

Styles for tops still lean toward the bare-most-of-what-you-can-see without being too provocative. Some pieces are black-and-white combinations that follow the tailored look but designed to show some skin somewhere.

This is the fun side of dressing—when you step into a place that gives you a variety of options in any style of choice. These are bold and linear times. Try to solve the equation before shifting to another trend.

All items available at Topshop, 2/F Robinsons Place Ermita, Padre Faura Wing

Feminine wiles

MARIELLA BURANI Burani's latest collection features billowy skirts in the softest of fabric, sexy smocked tops, bloom-strewn shift dresses in varying hues of purple, orange, blue and green. The black dress is interpreted with dainty flowers accented with a ruffled hem and neckline that add a hint of romance to the overall look. There are also dresses in fabrics that playfully hug the body, again splattered with flowers in varied hues and some with a flared hem.

Even Burani's Amuleti collection of simple, clean cuts that are hip, young and with a lot of spunk, exude a certain sexiness. A white dress is accented only by a zipped front and two pockets, while a shiny brown blouse and skirt ensemble has a thin belt for accent. Another standout is a mustard spaghetti strapped dress with a ruffled hem.

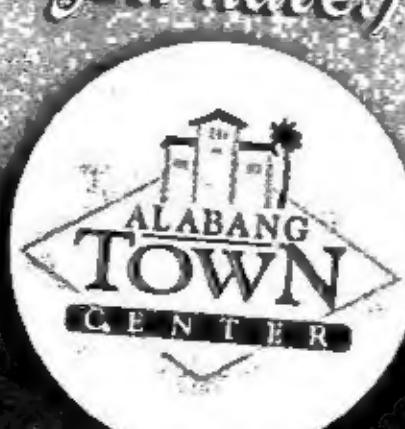
Mariella Burani, one of Italy's most popular and important women designers, combines a deep-seated femininity with strength in her designs. Nothing glitz really, but dazzling nonetheless. Visit Linea Italia Group's Linea Italia 6750, Prima Linea Greenbelt, Megamall and Cebu, Linea Italia Alabang Town Center and Viva Cebu for Mariella Burani's new collection.



FLOWER POWER. Colorful florals dot this Mariella Burani dress. Available at Linea Italia shops

*Here, you'll find
something to match
your every mood.*

*(No matter
how many moods
you have.)*



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